



# Sua Sponte

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*Second Quarter 2012*

## Inside this issue:

<b>Robert Pruden Story</b> Part 2 by "Chief" —	1
<b>Sua Sponte Board of Directors and Info</b> —	2
<b>President's Report</b> — By: Stephen Johnson	2
<b>Books by Assn. Members</b> — By: Sua Sponte Staff	6
<b>CPT Stephen Chaney</b> — By: Dave Hartline	7
<b>Ranger Scroll</b> — By John "Gunner" Starnes	9
<b>Company Directory</b> — By Sua Sponte Staff	10
<b>Treasurer Report</b> — By Lynn Walker	11

**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

## **Pruden-Part 2**

By David "Chief" Moncada



David "Chief" Moncada, and Robert "Prunes" Pruden

**REMEMBERING SSG ROBERT (PRUNES) PRUDEN**  
**RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR (POSTHUMOUS)**  
By: SSG Jesus (Chief) Moncada, G Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers (Airborne), Americal Division  
Part 2 of 4 -starting on page 3 is our featured article for this issue of Sua Sponte...

## Sua Sponte

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

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

Email: [TowerG75th@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com)

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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](mailto: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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Greetings!

We hope that you will be in attendance at our Branson reunion with all the hard work put together by "Corky" Corkan. Next year's reunion will be on the west coast. Where exactly will be decided at our annual meeting in our hospitality room in the Radisson Hotel.

In this "Sua Sponte" edition, there are three articles of interest: CPT Stephen Chaney by Dave Hartline, a friend of the Chaney family, the Ranger Scroll by "Gunner Starnes", and our continued feature about Prunes by "Chief". **We are in need of your help identifying which unit these deceased members served with; either the 196th, 51st, or 75th.** If know, please contact Stephen Crabtree to help.

[Stephen.C.Crabtree@gulfstream.com](mailto:Stephen.C.Crabtree@gulfstream.com)

### Deceased Members

Adams, Edmund; Akers, Kenneth, B; Anderson, Robert; Barton, William; Baumfeld, Jeffrey, M;  
Beamis, Michael; Bees, John, M; Bennett, Daniel, K; Bishop, John, F; Bogue, Richard; Bonner, Clyde; Boyd, Walter, A; Bradford, David; Campau, Robert; Cipkar, David; Cole, Ralph;  
Cox, Fred, C; Crownover, Danny; Cruse, David, C; Day, Sam; DeLowe, Delbert; Denney, Donald, L; Dewsnup, Danny, W;; Dickey, William, V; Eckert, John; Evans, John; Felts, John, H; Fischer, Bruce; Fortson, Gary, D; Fountain, Cecil, M; Fox, Johnny; Garfalo, Gary; Grimble, Ted, D; Guthmiller, Marilyn, D; Hamer, James, M; Harkness, Stuart, E; Haselden, Jimmie; Hendley, Alan, G; Hogan, Robert, L; Hudgens, Hubert, H; Jackson, David, W; Johnson, Melvin, D; Johnson, Clifton; Jones, Zola, R; Juan, Frederick, L; King, Bobby, L; Kinnison, Ronald, E; Kiraly, Laszlo; Klein, Raymond, E; Kraus, Joseph, F; Lewis, Harry, E; Likely, Richard, A; Longway, Terence; Mandel, Bradley, J; McGee, John; Mims, Max, B; Mouton, Leroy, A; Nelson, David; Nipper, Eddie, R; Paige, Stanley, C; Payne, John, P; Perry, Merrill; Powers, Rainey, R; Price, Clifford, L; Robertson, Ronald;  
Roerber, David, L; Ross, Bill; Salvin, Robert; Scallion, Patrick, T; Serna, Julian; Silver, Arlie, B; Simmons, Bridgeforth; Skinner, Dial, L; Smith, Morris, E;

Smith, Robert, L; Smith, Julius, W; Stepek, Randy, V; Sutton, Eddie, C; Ward, Steve; Watson, William; Wessel, Richard; Whitcomb, Alan, E; Wingert, Brian, A; Young, Jarrell, A

It's time that some of our leadership from our association step forward and fill the shoes of outgoing officers and board members. Please let one of the officers or board members know of your interest. My email is listed on the left inset on page 2.



For those of us who have pets know how accepting they are to us and whenever I get near them, my blood pressure drops to a healthier level. Health issues are becoming a concern to all of us and our loved ones; take advantage of sharing good times with yourself and those close to us, please. Michael Chu, "Sua Sponte" editor, has initiated a member feature. I think it is a great way to share with your brothers about who you are since leaving Vietnam. Should you be interested in contributing, please contact him; his contact information is also on this page to the left inset.

Tower

### Notice

Annual Business Meeting will be held at the Association Reception Room; Radisson Hotel; Branson, Missouri on Saturday, June 23 at 9:30 a.m.

# Remembering Robert “Prunes” Pruden

## REMEMBERING SSG ROBERT (PRUNES) PRUDEN RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR (POSTHUMOUS)

*By: SSG Jesus (Chief) Moncada, G Company, 75<sup>th</sup>  
Rangers (Airborne), Americal Division*

### PART 2 OF 4 OUR ROOKIE MISSION

As luck would have it, on one particular day before being assigned to a team, I got stuck with pulling CQ (Charge of Quarters) in the orderly room – that meant an all nighter (no beer, no free time.....what a drag!). But after all.....what else could the Army do.....send me to Vietnam? At approximately 0500 or 0600 hours the next morning of my CQ duty (after the all nighter), Smitty barged into the orderly room to announce that he, Prunes, and Scotty were going on a hastily assembled combat mission into the bush to attempt to locate an NVA or VC base camp deep in the mountains west of Chu Lai.

The Team Leader was to be SSG Henry Tabalno, while his Asst Tm Ldr was a SSG Jose Velasquez, both of whom were squared away and had pulled many missions with the LRRPs. Supposedly, the intelligence reports were rock solid. Tabalno was short one man for the mission, and he sent Smitty to the orderly room to ask if I would consider joining the team.

My response was automatic – I was not going to be left out of the picture. We were friends who knew each other back in Ranger School and Jump School, arrived “in country” together, and I was definitely going to be a part of this party!

Smitty advised me that insertion into the bush was about 2 hours away, that if I was going in with them, I was to hustle to get my weapon/ammo, food, gear, etc. together right away. Or, in Ranger parlance, “Get your shit together asap!” I was relieved from CQ duties, and quickly began to get my shit together, and I had just enough time to receive the intel briefing and to “zero my weapon” minutes before we made our way to the Americal Div helipad for insertion.

SSG Tabalno was a bit apprehensive, in that he was leading four new and unproven Rangers on their very first mission.

I began to appreciate his concerns more so when he asked me if I was rested enough to go on the mission, given my all night CQ duties, and that he expected some sort of combat action (contact) based on the intel reports. Tabalno went on to remind us that we were being inserted by helicopter on top of a long ridgeline situated on a steep mountain close to a suspected enemy base camp. Me, Prunes, Scotty, and Smitty assured Tabalno that we were prepared and would follow his lead. Tabalno assigned Smitty to walk point, and that I would walk “6 o’clock” (last man on the team watching our back door). Tabalno would walk behind Smitty, and Prunes, Scotty, and Velasquez would fill in the middle of the patrol file.

### THE INSERTION

The helicopter that would insert us into the bush landed on the Div helipad at approximately 0800, and it was all ready hotter than hell! Our LRRP/Ranger Team climbed into the bird, and I sat next to Pruden. While we were in the air heading to the insertion point, Pruden and I helped each other with our “face paint” (camouflage coloring) and we kept nodding to each other that all would be fine. Smitty and Scotty did the same, while Tabalno and Velasquez made sure the pilot got us to the proper insertion point. By this time I was beginning to feel a bit sleepy, but the excitement and adrenalin of this first combat mission was enough to keep me primed and awake. We – the four rookie Rangers – were determined to prove that we were good enough to be LRRPs, that all other LRRPs/Rangers in the company could count on us, that we belonged. We had something to prove – and we certainly proved it later that day!

As the helicopter began to descend toward the ridgeline, Tabalno gave the command to lock and load weapons and to prepare to exit the bird from the right side open doorway. Suddenly, the helicopter stopped descending and established a hover about 20 to 25 feet above the ground. We all looked out and down, noting that the ground was an uneven slope with tall elephant grass. The elephant grass was thick and flowing to and fro from the “blade wash”, and it was impossible to really see the actual ground. The pilot indicated he was not willing to risk taking the helicopter any lower, and yelling over his shoulder that we would have to jump off the skid from the current height.

*(Continued on the next Page)*

# Continued: Remembering Robert “Prunes”

By David “Chief” Moncada

Tabalno took a position on the skid and jumped ahead of the team, disappearing into the elephant grass. The rest of us did the same, while Velasquez was the last to jump off the skid. When I hit the ground with full combat load and weapon, it was a literal “crash and burn” into the hard ground, which almost jarred my teeth loose. Within seconds, the helicopter was off and away, while we were left on the ground gathering ourselves to carry out the mission.

Once the helicopter could no longer be heard, I heard a voice calling for help, but not in an excited and out of control fashion. It was sort of a “quiet call for help.” I low crawled toward the sound, and within 10 to 20 ft from my landing location, I found a “Punji Pit”. A punji pit is a rather deep hole (about 6 to 9 feet deep and wide enough for a man to fall into) with many sharpened bamboo poles sticking straight upward. It was Smitty!

Smitty had jumped off the skid of the bird straight into this punji pit. He was standing upright in the pit with a bamboo pole impaling the right side of his face and another that had impaled his rucksack and gear. However, Smitty was not in panic mode, much to his credit, as evidenced by his request that someone should take a photograph of his situation while he was impaled by a punji stake.

Tabalno and I carefully climbed into the punji pit, while the others fanned out to secure the immediate area. I found Smitty’s camera in his cargo pocket and snapped off a few quick photos, particularly of the stake that somehow and miraculously missed vital parts of his head (it nicked his jaw line and entered the fleshy part of his cheek exiting just below his eye). Tabalno cut the stake off just below his jaw line and we placed a hasty field dressing on one side of his face. In the meantime, Velasquez (the ATL) had radioed in the situation, and we soon heard a medevac helicopter approaching.

Again, because the helicopter could not land on the uneven ground, we hoisted Smitty and his gear up to the skid of the bird, where he was assisted into the bird and off they flew.

We spent a few minutes re-distributing the ammo and hand grenades we had taken from Smitty among ourselves.

## THE MISSION

Needless to say, we spent much more time in the insertion LZ area than we should have because of Smitty’s injury. Also, those helicopters made a shit load of noise...not once, but twice! Unnecessary noise for a LRRP/Ranger team normally produces bad and unwanted results – even we rookies understood that much after all.

As we were preparing to move out and up the ridge-line, Tabalno directed me to “walk point”, since that would have been Smitty’s role in the patrol. As we patrolled quietly up the slope in single file, it seemed we would never get past that damned tall elephant grass, which was efficiently slicing the hell out of my exposed arms and face, and which would not allow me to see more than a few feet in front of my position. We patrolled past several well-used trails, but avoided them as much as possible.

Within one or two hours of patrolling, we heard a single shot that came from our left. Tabalno halted the patrol for about a minute while we quietly listened for other sounds. Tabalno whispered to all of us that it was probably “a marker round” shot from an AK-47 by an NVA trail watcher. Not hearing anything else, we moved out again, heading higher up the widening ridge-line. About 30 to 45 minutes later we heard a second shot from another AK-47 - this time it had come from our right side. Rather than stopping again, Tabalno slid past me and began walking point, whispering to all of us to be more alert and that we would quicken our pace. Thankfully, about 10 minutes later we entered a thick, double canopied jungle, leaving the elephant grass behind, as we continued patrolling higher into the mountainous area that surrounded us. At about 1400 hrs we stopped for a break in an area that provided good cover & concealment. We had a quick snack of “John Wayne candy bars” and crackers & cheese and rested for a few minutes.

*Continued on next page*

## Part 2 Continued: Robert “Prunes” Pruden

By David “Chief” Moncada

Tabalno and Velasquez quietly whispered their concerns to me, Pruden, and Scotty – that we could have been spotted by NVA trail watchers, given the marker rounds heard earlier, and if true, our trail through the elephant grass was not difficult to pick out if the NVA had begun searching. Tabalno then informed me, Pruden, and Scotty to set up a defensible position, that he and Velasquez were departing our position in separate directions to recon the immediate area.

That seemed to make plenty of sense until we learned they were taking the two PRC-25 radios with them, so that they could communicate between themselves and our Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in Chu Lai. In other words, we three rookies would be on our own for an undetermined period of time, and without the means to communicate!

Naturally, this scared the crap out of us.....but we were Rangers, and we didn't have a choice in the matter in any event. Off they went in separate directions, as quietly as only LRRPS/Rangers can do. Scotty, Pruden, and I set up our individual positions and waited. Because I had not slept the night before, and because of the heat and fatigue of patrolling up a steep ridge line all day, I found myself dozing off while lying on the jungle floor.

Scotty and Pruden were required to squeeze my arm or shoulder to keep me awake several times, which was made possible because we were lying and facing outward in a tight circle, within arms reach of each other. It was unbelievably hot, quiet, and boring as hell, with plenty of time to wonder if I had made the right decisions about volunteering for all this shit!

### MAGUIRE RIG EXTRACTION

Approximately one to two hours later, Tabalno and Velasquez returned together to our position. Yes, we heard their quiet approach due to our vigilance (and fear), and we properly challenged them with the running password of the day as they approached. Tabalno quickly and quietly explained the current tactical situation to Scotty, Pruden, and myself. First, while they were out on their recon, they established that we were very close to an active NVA base camp (size unknown).

Secondly, the NVA probably knew or suspected that a small LRRP/Ranger team was earlier inserted into the area, given the single shot “marker rounds” we heard earlier. Thirdly, while avoiding detection, Tabalno and Velasquez spotted several NVA teams combing through our general area in search of that LRRP/Ranger team. Yep.....that would be us!!

Tabalno also added that the NVA were close by, and getting closer by the minute. Finally, and the most frightening, was that Tabalno had informed our TOC in Chu Lai the same tactical assessment, and requested an immediate helicopter extraction while we still had daylight hours. That helicopter extraction would be via a “Maguire Rig Extraction”, and that because the helicopter was enroute, we had to prepare for that extraction right away.

We three rookies explained to Tabalno that we had never heard of a Maguire Rig Extraction, and therefore, we had no idea what the hell he was talking about! Tabalno and Velasquez were literally dumbfounded, given the looks on their faces. [For the uninitiated, a Maguire Rig is a device secured to the floor of a helicopter with six separate 150-foot lengths of rope that are anchored to that same device, and which are dropped from the helicopter to the ground via weighted sand bags.

Once on the ground, a LRRP/Ranger straps into his rope line with an army Swiss seat and other gear, after which the helicopter lifts the entire team up and out through the trees. Three ropes go out each door of the helicopter for balance and weight distribution.

A Special Forces officer in Vietnam, whose last name was Maguire, invented the entire contraption. Needless to say, this new technique had not been mentioned, introduced, or practiced in the good ole US Army Ranger School back in Georgia!]

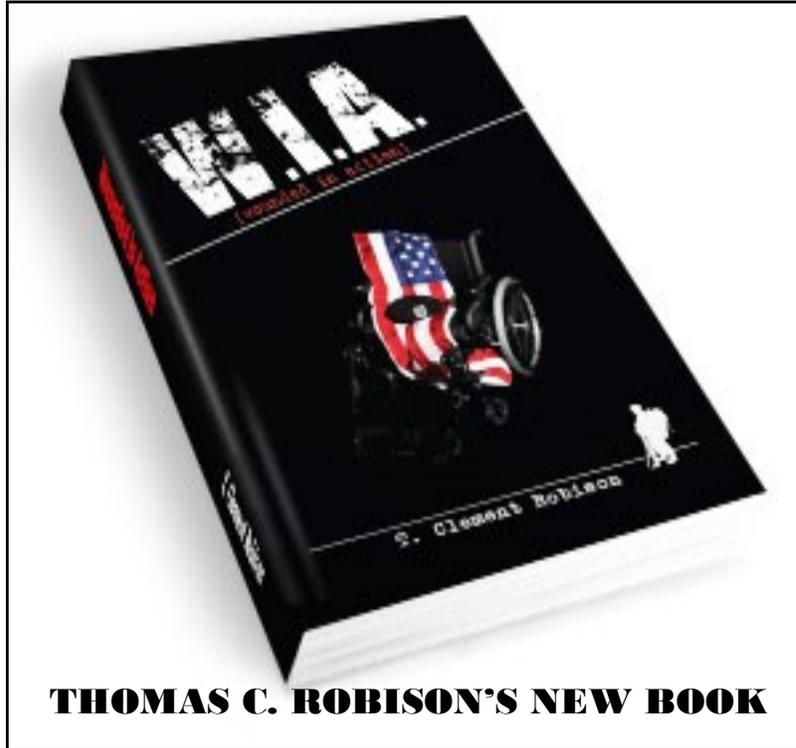
Tabalno and Velasquez simply informed us to follow their lead, to do as they do, and not to worry. Right.....no worries.....what other problems could possibly happen to us on this day.....our rookie mission!!

**Parts 3 and 4 will be continued in the following next two issues of *Sua Sponte*.**

## OUR ASSOCIATION AUTHORS' NEW BOOKS *BY* THOMAS C. ROBISON AND JOHN FRITZINGER

Highly trained Army Ranger and leader of an elite long-range reconnaissance team, the author, Sergeant Thomas Robison, takes readers on a perilous journey from the enemy-infested jungles and rice paddies of South Vietnam to the sterile operating rooms of military and veterans' hospitals. Struggling to survive while those around him succumb to their wounds, he is given less than twenty-four hours to live. ***Wounded in Action*** is the author's emotionally gripping story of survival and determination that could only be told by someone who had to live it day by day and minute by minute."

To get your book, order online at [www.tclementrobison.com](http://www.tclementrobison.com).



**THOMAS C. ROBISON'S NEW BOOK**

### JOHN FRITZINGER'S BOOK

Order online at [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com)

# DECADE OF DECEIT

MEMOIRS OF AN ELITE AMERICAN SOLDIER IN VIETNAM,  
GROWING UP IN COLD WAR AMERICA, & THE JOURNEY BACK



**JOHN FRITZINGER**

For those of you who knew my Dad, John Fritzinger Sr., this is an update to anyone who knew about the book project he was working on before he passed away. John Fritzinger was, among many things, a proud member of G Company, 75th Infantry Rangers. He decided to write a book about his experiences in Vietnam during the war, growing up in cold war America, and about his journey back in 1999. His memoirs are a reflection of an America that had transformed from the sleepy 50's into the violent and turbulent 60's, and how his experience as a soldier in a tiny warring country in Southeast Asia totally consumed him - both then and thirty years later. He started writing these memoirs during and after his return trip to Vietnam in 1999. Sadly, Fritz died suddenly of a heart attack in 2002. As his son, I took it upon myself to finish what he started. My career as an Art Director has allowed me to design, arrange, and self-publish his memoirs in his book, Decade of Deceit. Everything that he wrote in his handwritten memoirs is included in this book he wanted to write about. *John Fritzinger II*

## CPT STEPHEN CHANEY

Americans have become accustomed to the courageous story of Pat Tillman. He was a star professional football player for the Arizona Cardinals who gave up a multi-million dollar contract to join the army after the September 11, 2001 Al Qaeda terrorist attacks. He felt he needed to do his part. Tillman was killed in Afghanistan in 2004. There are countless heroes like Pat Tillman, who without being asked, sacrificed for a cause they believed was just. Captain Stephen J Chaney is one of the heroes. Thirty six years ago Captain Stephen J Chaney was killed in action near the Laotian-Vietnamese border during a secret operation in the Vietnam War. The fog of war prevents us from knowing the exact details of his death but the life this Green Beret and former Notre Dame Football player lived cuts through the fog like a brilliant ray of sunshine.

Steve Chaney grew up in Marion, Ohio and anyone who has ever entered Marion Catholic High School since 1969 couldn't help but notice his, picture, jersey and Green Beret in one of the schools display cases which are featured prominently near the entrance of the school. I certainly noticed the display case everyday that I went to school there. During my freshman year of high school, I thought everyone must have heard of this American hero. Time would reveal that, like many heroes in Vietnam or any other war, most people know nothing of their courage, valor and honor. Perhaps it's time to learn a little bit about Steve Chaney.

Steve Chaney graduated from Marion Catholic High School in 1964 on his way to play football for Coach Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame. In high school, Chaney started at running back all four years for the Marion Catholic Fighting Irish; a remarkable feat when one realizes that the school was loaded with talent but that didn't prevent Chaney from being a star. Current Marion Catholic principal Fran Voll was just about to graduate when Chaney entered as a freshman but remembers the maturity that Chaney possessed. Voll later went on to coach basketball at the high school and Division I college level. "I remember him as a freshman athlete and the upper classmen were thoroughly impressed with his leadership skills. It almost made you forget how great of an athlete he was. You just don't find that type of maturity coming from a high school freshman. I rarely found it at the college level. Talent and maturity are lethal combination in sports and Chaney already possessed it as a freshman in high school."

Many people in Marion have commented that although Marion Catholic was voted state football champions the two years following Chaney's graduation, the team Chaney was on may have been as good or better, which didn't seem to bother Chaney in the least. Although West Point and the University of Michigan made scholarship offers

Chaney accepted Notre Dame's scholarship. "I thought for sure he would sign with West Point," said his father Ken Chaney. "However, when he got back from South Bend he looked at his mother and me and said I am going to sign with the Irish. I really had a special experience on the visit." Chaney went on to play for Notre Dame in 1964 with the freshman squad since freshman weren't eligible to play varsity in those years. Chaney shared backfield duties with future Super Bowl and Pittsburgh Steeler star Rocky Bleier. It was after his freshman season that Chaney began to feel that perhaps the best use of his talent was to follow his father Ken Chaney's footsteps and join the US Army.

Chaney excelled during his Army training and became a Green Beret shortly before he left for Vietnam in late 1967. Chaney returned from Vietnam at the end of 1968 and spent about a month in Marion visiting family and friends. He didn't have to go back for another tour but felt his leadership might be needed as the war was becoming less popular and younger and younger soldiers were arriving. "Dad those 18 and 19 year old kids need someone seasoned like me to help them get use to the place," the younger Chaney told his father. The elder Chaney, a World War II and Korea veteran, and his late wife Frances Chaney were nervous about a second tour. "You know Steve really believed in what he was doing and how can you talk anyone out of that?"

Steve Chaney was killed in a secret mission in Laos towards the very end of his second tour. It was years later, after the army declassified the documents pertaining to his death that the family found out about how and where he died, his father said. "Steve died in Laos. He was with a company of US and Montagnards and I believe everyone was killed or badly injured with the exception of one man." Chaney says he holds no hostility towards the US Government or US Army concerning the secret nature of his son's death or the years it took before they found out the true nature of his death. He also said, "I was in the military and I know how these things work. They (the government and the army) didn't try to deceive anyone but there are things you just don't need to know. It really bothers me today when you some of these kids' parents complaining about the situation with their sons in Iraq. We don't have a draft like we did in Vietnam. These kids knew what was going to happen when they signed up for the military or the National Guard and now some of their parents are trying to speak for them and it bothers me. . I have always said that 90% of protestors are people who just want publicity or don't know what to do with their lives. The wars and soldiers they protest against are the very people preserving their rights to protest. What would have happened to them if they had protested in Iraq when Saddam Hussein was in power?"

## COMPANY MEMBER CPT STEPHEN CHANEY

BY DAVE HARTLINE

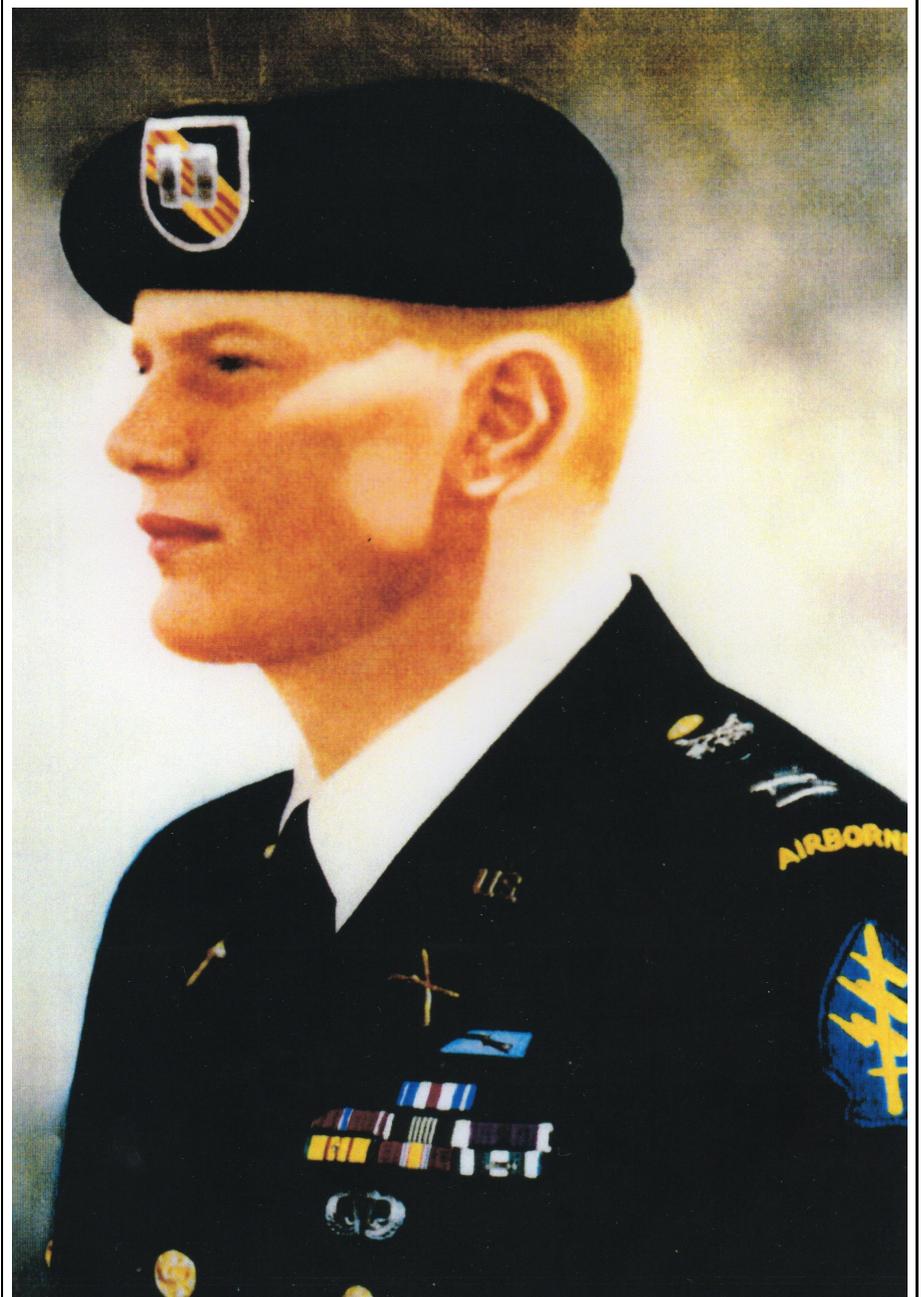
As I called, Ken Chaney was busy arranging some information about Steve for a family member. "I was just looking at the letters General (William) Westmoreland and President (Richard) Nixon sent to us following Steve's death. We had a lot of letters of condolence and support and it really helped us. We have met with two boys that were with Steve when he died, Staff Sergeant Stephen Wilson and Specialist 4 Lawrence Maurey. They had horrific injuries, one is a paraplegic and it took them both years to recover. Yet those two aren't bitter and they never acted like anyone owed them anything. They have made something of their lives in spite of what happened to them." Chaney concluded our conversation by saying, "You know it was good to talk to you again and I hope that people will read this story about Steve and take something from Steve's life as well as the men who survived that awful battle. They tried to do what they thought were right and I just wish the media would talk about people like this instead of all the negative news that came out of Vietnam and now Iraq."

On This Veterans Day, perhaps we should focus on the men and women who serve and have served this country, whether they are living or dead. They had many motives for doing what they did in serving their country. I believe their motives were good. If you doubt this just think of the alternative, what if there weren't men like Steve Chaney or Pat Tillman who took the extraordinary step of volunteering for something no one ask them to do? The doubters might say, "Well they might be alive?" and this is true. However, the doubters should perhaps ask themselves would they be alive? It's because of people like Captain Stephen J Chaney that the doubters will never have to find out.

*Story Originally Written on Veteran's Day*

2005

On September 23, 1969, CPT Chaney was leading a recon patrol in known enemy-controlled territory on the Laotian side of the A Shau Valley, when his team located a superior enemy force on the opposite side of a stream. CPT Chaney quickly devised a plan to destroy the enemy force. He directed a helicopter gunship attack, and he planned to lead his team in an attack against the enemy force while it was confused and before it had time to recover from the air strike. The first wave of the attack was on target, but a rocket fired by a second helicopter went astray, wounding every member of CPT Chaney's team. CPT Chaney, mortally wounded himself, requested immediate extraction for his team. By the time the evacuation team arrived, CPT Chaney was very weak and close to death. He nonetheless remained in control of the situation to ensure that the other team members were evacuated and received the medical care they needed, again putting the needs of others before his own. CPT Chaney succumbed to his wounds before he could be evacuated to a medical facility.



## SCROLL RECOGNITION BY JOHN "GUNNER" STARNES

This is a story of recognition. The wear of our scroll was a long path to gain approval and recognition by U.S. Army Heraldry.

Our first Ranger unit was that of Captain Benjamin Church's Mobile Ranging Company. The British wore arched tabs for certain units in 1675. If in fact Church's Rangers sported the wear of a tab it never made it to British Heraldry.

The first to wear the tab was Roger's Rangers in 1758, almost a hundred years later. It was not the official Ranger arched tab of today. It was worn as one of the unit's innovations to show unit identify and individual qualification. Rangers then as well as now, earned the right to wear the tab due to hardship imposed on its individuals during training and combat operations. As the unit made its way supporting British to American Continental Army the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia was never heralded by the Continental Army. It was constructed of felt with a red border, blue field and silver lettering spelling out Rangers.

In 1862, the Rangers of the American Civil War did not wear the tab.

In World War II, the first Ranger unit's shoulder sleeve insignia was born by Darby's Rangers officially called the 1<sup>st</sup> RANGER Battalion "a command-like unit". The unit wore a modified tab which came to known as a scroll. It was a tab bent back behind itself with the running end bent back again. It stated 1<sup>st</sup> RANGER Bn. The inventor was Ranger SSG Rada, he submitted it for approval and the scroll was accepted for wear, thus the entire battalion scrambled to manufacture the modified tab. England as well as the United State, lacked blue dye and blue felt and a substitute for the blue field with white lettering for was made. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rangers submitted their Ranger shoulder sleeve insignia it was blue diamond with yellow border and yellow lettering. U.S. Heraldry approved the yellow and blue after the consolidation of WWII Rangers were



reformed as the 6615<sup>th</sup> Ranger Infantry Force during that war.

"Merrill's Marauders" a strike behind the lines "command-like unit" fighting in South-east Asia during WWII incorporated a modified tab over their shoulder sleeve insignia. It stated Merrill's Marauders officially known as the 5307<sup>th</sup> (COMPOSITE) (Provincial) Army Unit, later consolidated and reconstituted as the 475<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY Regiment sporting a tab stating (MARS TASK FORCE).

The commando-like units also included Parachute Infantry Regiments (PIR) and had been approved the wear of an AIRBORNE tab officially during WWII. The tab was a blue and white or black and yellow tab. However, it was determined that the tab was to identify Airborne units capability, not individual qualifications.

After WWII Ranger units were deactivated. In order to save the skills they practiced, Rangers rallied to have a school of Rangers training instituted. It was approved and controlled by the United State Army Infantry Schools (USAIS). The first outward sign was an arched tab seen in October 1950. It stated RANGER on a black field with yellow borders. The graduates of the training would sport the individual award. At the same time Ranger company-size units were being formed and trained by the Ranger instructors of the 3440<sup>th</sup> Army Unit or the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion (Training) which qualified the soldiers in Ranger leadership, doctrine, tactics and techniques. In an effort to identify with the WWII Rangers, the companies also sported the Ranger scroll below the

Ranger individual qualification tab. Incorporating the word AIRBORNE above the larger word RANGER identifying the Korean War Rangers were Airborne capable. Again the colors were red, white and black. The Airborne Rangers time on active duty was short lived and they too were inactivated in 1952. The scroll was not to be officiated at that time.

In 1958, the US Congress authorized the US Army a "Ranger type LRRP unit" to be tested in the 7<sup>th</sup> Army, Southern European Theater Army Command (SETAF). The unit's mission was static reconnaissance in the battlefield of Europe's cold war. The test detachment was called SETAF (PARACHUTE LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PARTOL) INFANTRY Detachment or just LRRP. The LRRP test Detachment attended two host nation commandos training and freefall parachute training with duty related language, Morse code training and radio training during winter warfare operations with possible parachute insertion behind the Iron Curtain controlled by the Soviet Union.

After the soldiers attended 7<sup>th</sup> Army LRRP School, the soldiers started sporting yellow and back LRRP for completing three week Army level special skill training. The finishing school would be Ranger or Special Forces Schools. Many Ranger qualified soldiers were being slotted into the Ranger-type LRRP unit thus influencing the way they operated in the battlefield i.e. patrolling actions and techniques. Many Special Forces soldiers were also slotted into the units adding to the LRRP guerrilla warfare capability. This would be the commencement of more LRRP units into the combat zone of Vietnam's War supporting major maneuver commands. The evolution of LRRP units would evolve to (LONG RANGE PATROL) then to (RANGER) fulfilling the Marauders and Ranger wish to activate not a Ranger-type LRRP unit, but using the proper title "RANGER" in lieu of LRRP, and returning the Ranger unit into the active modern Army.

*Continued on the next page...*

# SCROLL RECOGNITION CONTINUED

BY JOHN "GUNNER" STARNES

The scrolls first worn were the INF. (LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL) det. The second was C, D, E, F Co. (AIRBORNE – LONG RANGE PATROL) INF. Then INF. (AIRBORNE RANGER) CO. Followed by lettered A-P Co. (AIRBORNE RANGER) 75<sup>TH</sup> INF. The early Rangers called LRRPS wore the yellow and black modified LRRP scroll. The L.R.P. took cue from the Airborne Ranger companies of the Korean War era and adopted the red, white and black scrolls. They were followed by the undetermined Ranger companies and finally followed the Infantry CARS in 1969.

The last company was L Co. Airborne Ranger 75<sup>th</sup> INF., deactivated 1 October 1972 in the combat zone of Vietnam. Again, the scroll was not to be fully authorized by Heraldry but was a continued wear by its LRP-Ranger veterans.

Ranger companies A and B continued in the continental United States until the activation of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalions in 1974 followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion years later. It would take the hostage rescue of Americans attending college in Grenada to give rise to authorize the scroll. The 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers were parachuted under fire into Grenada, the combat action was completed in months. President Regan asked the Rangers, what can I do for you? It was at that time that the 75<sup>th</sup> (RANGER)RGT scroll was finally accepted by Army Heraldry via Presidential Executive Order.

It was not the first Ranger Scroll, but it certainly is the first to be approved and heralded. A very long road to recognition in deed.

***SUA SPONTE "Of our own accord"  
RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!***

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Sharon Robison

Email address [tomsharonrobison@msn.com](mailto:tomsharonrobison@msn.com)

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Sharon Robison

5523 N. Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512

Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

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Signature

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Phone:

# Treasurer Quarterly Financial Report By Treasurer Lynn "Cowboy" Walker CPA

## COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through April 25, 2012

	Jan 1 - Apr 25, 12
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	1,050.00
Total Direct Public Support	1,050.00
Other Types of Income	
Concessions	170.00
Total Other Types of Income	170.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	2,100.00
Total Program Income	2,100.00
Total Income	3,320.00
Gross Profit	3,320.00
Expense	
Bank Fees	7.50
Operations	
Postage, Mailing Service	150.00
Printing and Copying	670.21
Supplies	221.65
Total Operations	1,041.86
Total Expense	1,049.36
Net Ordinary Income	2,270.64
Net Income	2,270.64

## Branson Hotel Reservations 800-333-3333

June 21-23 in Branson, Missouri



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Quarterly Newsletter of  
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