



WINTER 1996-97



The Quarterly Newsletter of The Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association

# SUA SPONTE LRRP LINE

**RANGER MEMORIAL...**A ceremony honoring soldiers of E 51-G75 on Veteran's Day. page 1

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...**

Survey suggests changes..page 2  
**NEXT REUNION...**Next issue will feature Missouri as our next site spearheaded by *Jarhead*.

**RANGER TABS...** Bill in congress would award *Tab* to all of us. p.6

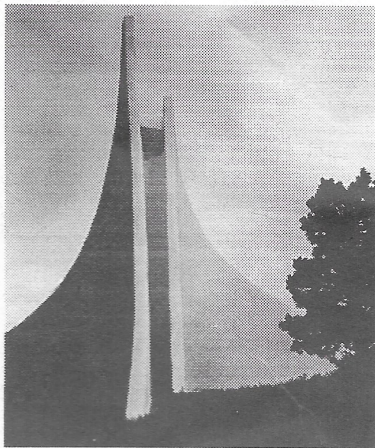
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...**Al Stewart has insights for association. page 7.

**WHAT'S NEW IN LRRP GEAR...** Polo shirts, hats, and other items.

**GUNNER'S CORNER...**Historian John Gunner. Page 6.

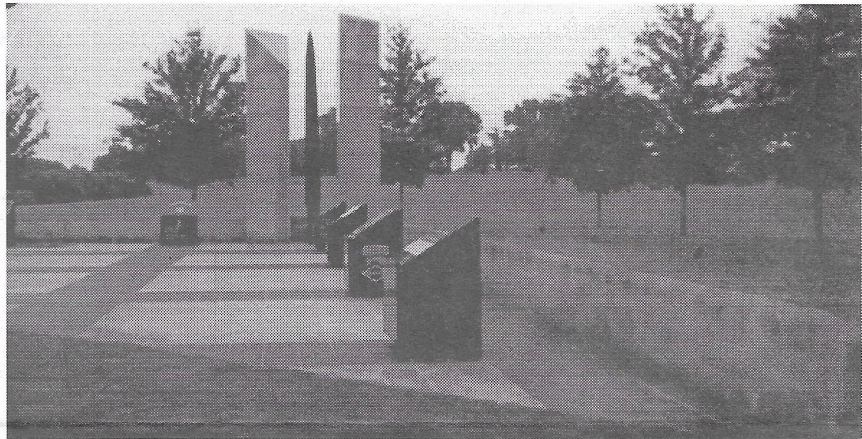
**SUA SPONTE SNAPSHOT**

Can you identify this photo? Read the next issue to find out.



## Memorial at: ft. benning

by: Steve "Crabs" Crabtree



### Ft. Benning Georgia

A memorial service was held to honor the 83 Rangers of Delta/151, Golf/75, November/75, Papa/75, and their respective parent LRRP units who gave their lives in the line of duty in Vietnam. The service was held in front of the the arch leading to the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning on Veteran's Day 1996. In attendance were Generals, Privates, Civilians, and former Rangers numbering over 150. The impact will never be forgotten.

The service was opened with a prayer by Chaplain Tom Wheatley. Rick Eahrler, President of the 75th Infantry Regiment Association, talked about compiling the "list" over the past

two years and how this ceremony seemed only a dream we all shared: a dream none of us expected to really happen until some time in the far-distant-future. Terry Roderick, VP of the 75th, read the "killer 1-6", a poem about losing five of six men on a Ranger team. The sole survivor of that team was in attendance. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. When introduced, I asked the question, "Did we lose in Vietnam?" and answered it with a documented "we may have lost the battle in Vietnam, but we won the war against communism!" I then went on to explain what transpired over the last

(continued page 3)

# Sua Sponte

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Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association.

**Change of Address:** Sua Sponte does not maintain the mailing list. All addresses are maintained by the Treasurer. Receivers of Sua Sponte are encouraged to keep the Association informed of any address changes.

**Membership Information:** All former members of E/51 and G/75 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:** Article, photos, announcements, etc. are always welcomed. Sua Sponte reserves the right to accept and edit all materials as necessary. All submitted photos will be returned if requested. Authorship and photo credits will be provided. Submittal of written articles may be hand written, typed or on computer disk. We can translate most files. Macintosh is preferred.

**Deadlines:** Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadlines for submitting material for the newsletter is the first of each month identified above. Time sensitive material will take precedence. Send material to the Sua Sponte address in Bemidji, Mn.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Newsletter Staff



In an interview with "Jolly," Sua Sponte is reporting that Charles was most impressed with the ceremony at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning and would like to thank the efforts of Steve Crabtree in being a major participant in this event.

Secondly, "Jolly" was surprised by the low number of surveys returned to him. However, from the information gathered by it and other informal contacts, Sua Sponte has learned that there will, perhaps, be some important changes at the annual meeting held at the Missouri reunion this summer. Changes under consideration include going to a every-other-year reunion and making stronger ties with the Regimental Association while keeping ours at the highest standard.

Charles wishes everyone a warm, safe new year.

## Chu Steps Down

For 6 years I have served as Association Secretary, a spiritually rewarding task that brought me very close to the inner workings of this Vietnam veteran organization. As an officer of the Association I have had the pleasure of meeting many old comrades as well as many new faces. I have gotten to know them personally, their wives, their families, their home states. I have gotten to meet members of related organizations and have become acquainted with the overall veterans network of this great Country.

Without getting too mushy about it, the time has arrived for Michael Chu to step aside as Association Secretary. This will occur as of the end of calendar year 1996, giving the Board a full 6 months to find a replacement before the next Board meeting. Except for not having the chance to sign Ivery's life membership certificates, my service to the Association has been one of the most rewarding and meaningful things I have done. I thank all Association members for their generous contributions and support towards this outstanding organization. I am confident that the present Association leadership will be able to continue in our great tradition.

*Editor's note:*

Mike continues to contribute and has received the organization's highest award (piss tube). Sorry, Mike, no early outs for you!

**Veteran's Day, 1996  
In Remembrance**

**MEMORIAL**



**(continued from page 1)**  
fifty-some years that lead up to this memorial service, who were really responsible for it and who really deserved thanks for the ceremony.

A newspaper article describing what being a Ranger meant to me was presented to Major General Kenneth Leuer, Chairman of the Ranger Memorial Foundation. General Leuer spoke on, "Was I trained well, was I lead well, and was I remembered." The talk was inspiring. The accolades for the units that have purchased bricks for all their casualties at the memorial and the mission to purchase bricks for the remaining KIA's was humbling.

C. Larry Rhodes, treasurer for the 75th, read the six names of Rangers killed in action from D/151. Jay Lutz read the twenty-one from P Company. Roy Boatman read the twenty-five from N Company. I read the thirty-one from G Company. Roy and I ended the reading with our two Medal of Honor recipients, Laszlo Rabel and Bob Pruden. The chaplain closed the ceremony with a sermon on "Remembering", gave a closing prayer and invited everyone to join us in viewing the bricks.

Our mission is not over. At present 123 bricks are in place at the memorial. An additional 20 have been paid for and

ordered. We still need to purchase bricks for the remaining 228 RANGERS who made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam . Please send your tax-deductible donations to: Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc., c/o Ranger Steve Crabtree, 2823 East Norwood Street, Mesa, Arizona 85213. For direct communication call (602) 396 3783 or e-mail me at [ranger@goodnet.com](mailto:ranger@goodnet.com). If you would like a video tape of the ceremony, simply request one with your donation. An on-line update of our progress will available at: [www.goodnet.com/~ranger](http://www.goodnet.com/~ranger).

There will be another memorial service at Fort Benning upon completion of our mission when we unveil the bricks for and read the names of each of the 371 Rangers killed in action in Vietnam. Please plan on joining us.

CRABS G/75

*Editor's note:*

*Sua Sponte* would like to acknowledge credit to Steve Crabtree for the two photos of the Ranger Memorial and for the article which represents credit to himself and the company in which he served. Thanks, Crabs, and for all those who attended!

# A FEW GOOD MEN

by Michael Chu

It was a real pleasure seeing Rick 'Jammin Jarhead' Collier at the Vegas reunion. Jarhead never shows up alone, but instead hauls his ton of music gear with him wherever he goes and is not bashful about setting up for all to enjoy his extensive collection of CDs which probably numbers in the thousands.

Collier has never charged us any money for his services. For him, this would be like taking money from family. He does this out of love and his unshakable sense of brotherhood to LRRPs and Rangers. When we talk of the glue that bonds the Association, the Jarhead stands out as a sterling example of what we are all about.

Another man that stands out in my mind is Darrel Wasson, our Las Vegas resident and two time host for the Association. Darrel has walked point for us on two occasions, utilizing his personal talent, contacts and wisdom in guiding us through two reunion insertions and extractions. Without hesitation, Darrel and Cindy Wasson have stepped up to the plate whenever asked, making available not only their time but their home and have served as gracious host during the recon and reunion operations. When

the button machine was not functioning, Darrel was there to trouble shoot it and got it up and running in no time. When we needed to sit down and strategize the details, the Wasson home was open and Cindy threw together a lasagne dinner on a moments notice that couldn't be beat. When the reunion ended and we needed storage for our gear, again it the Wasson's we turned to. And did I mention the bases for the flags, the UPS delievery site or the usage of their car?

So often we depend on the good will of our members, and they always come through. Rick Collier and Darrel and Cindy Wasson are two examples that deserve special recognition. It is refreshing and inspiring to encounter people such as these.

## THE IVERY CASE

by Michel Chu

About a dozen men have so far signed up as Life Members of the Association. We are grateful to these individuals and on several occasions we have discussed the idea of designing and issuing a plaque or certificate in recognition of their "lifer" status.

But old Louis Ivery has beaten us to the punch. According to Steve Jaeger, Central Regional Commander of the U.S. Army Ranger Association, a gentleman by the name of Louis Ivery, El Paso, TX. has been circulating an E/51 G/75 life mem-

bership certificate issued to himself, and using it as the basis for membership with other Ranger, Airborne and Special Forces associations. According to Jaeger, Louis Ivery claims to have been awarded the E/51 G/75 life membership certificate during an awards ceremony at our 1996 Las Vegas reunion.

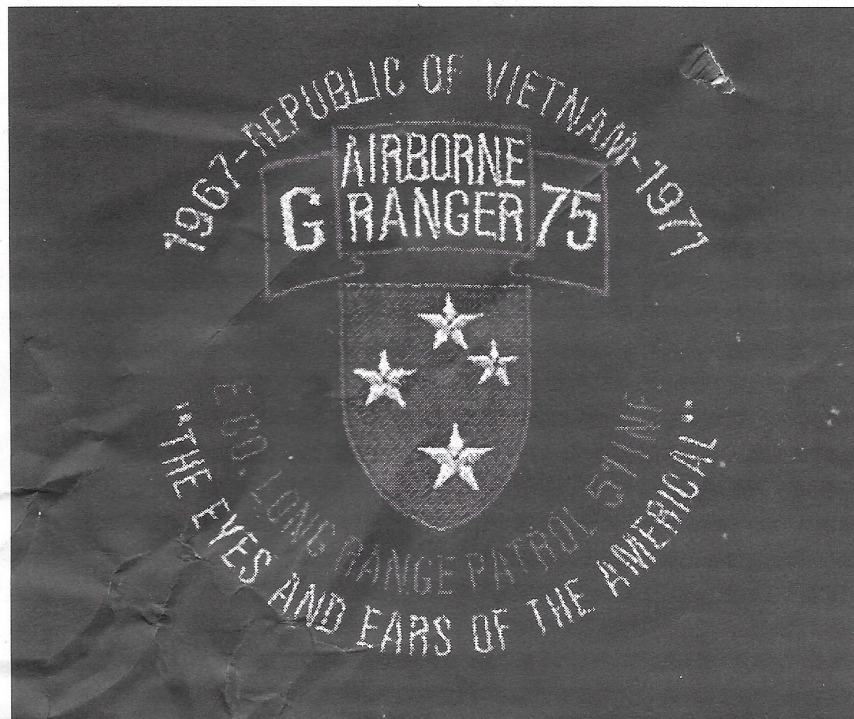
Like most of you would do, I immediately consulted my trusty membership handbook but found no Louis Ivery listed. I explained to Jaeger that after six years of compilation, our roster is pretty damn comprehensive;... but I suppose it is quite possible for us to still be missing a few names. But hey, the E/51 G/75 life membership certificate that was being touted really caught my interest. "Please send us a copy of his certificate," I asked. "We may be able to steal a few good ideas from him!"

About a week later a photocopy arrived at my doorstep. It sure looked official with wings, scrolls, the Americal patch and an official signature of the association's secretary along the lower right hand corner. Except for the fact that the secretary's signature did not look familiar, and the certificate was dated about a month after we left Vegas, and it refers to Co. E, 75th Infantry, it wasn't too bad of a job and I can see how it could have fooled someone who was not too familiar with our Association.

Thanks to Crabs and Tom Sove for steering this information.

*Editor's note:* Thanks, Mike, for contributions, again.

## LRRP Gear



The above embroidery is that of our polo shirt that is really a popular item for members, friends, and family. The current price is \$18.00. This will increase by the next issue.

At present, we have in immediate stock: large, small, and a few extra large. Mediums are being presently manufactured as this article goes to press. All sizes tend to run **larger** than what we normally expected. Order accordingly.

Hats with the 75th Ranger are another item which we carry in stock. These hats are \$15.00. Each are excellent quality.

Some belt-buckles, an excellent value at \$10.00 each.

Should you have any suggestions for items that you would like to have us offer for sale, please write to:  
 Steve "Tower" Johnson  
 RR # 2, Box 178 D  
 Bemidji, Mn 56601  
 e-mail: [sjohnson@bji.net](mailto:sjohnson@bji.net)

### Orders send to:

LRRP Gear  
 % Frank Svensson  
 6964 Berkshire Drive  
 Alta Loma, California 91701

We accept credit card orders,  
 Checks payable: Company G  
 (Ranger) Association.  
**Please add 10% for shipping  
 and handling charges.**

## Vietnam Trip – Info

by newsletter staff

If you have ever thought about returning to Vietnam, for whatever reason, you might save yourself a lot of leg work by contacting Dennis Nye, a contributing member who has done research on this.

According to Dennis, costs are estimated at \$2,300 U.S. and also needed is a visa which can be arranged through his contacts. Included in the estimated costs are a travel guide, motels, meals, etc.

There are itineraries to be followed and group size will dictate costs.

Dennis says he realizes that there is controversy because of the POW-MIA issue, but is willing to share what he knows about a Vietnam trip, for those who are interested.

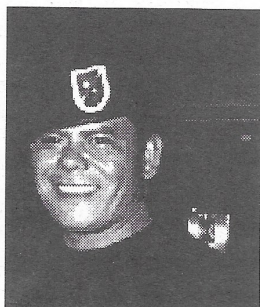
Contact Dennis at:

Dennis Nye  
 10770 W. Co Rd 6  
 New Riegel, Ohio 44853

Phone #: (419) 595-2876

## Gunner's Corner

by John Starns



### I AM ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE

#### 1st task:

To create a yearbook beginning from 1967 to 1972. This will require a clear picture of you from head to shoulders while in the company. Additional information such as: orders, certificates and diplomas received while in the service. Hopefully this task can be completed in one year. I have on file many such items in the history book and some members will not have to send anything. You should know who you are.

#### 2nd task:

In order to complete ongoing historical documentation for the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 75th Ranger Infantry Association, I still need DD-214s and Recondo orders as well as certificates and diplomas of service schools. The reasoning of this work is to correct errors of historical value to these agencies.

#### 3rd task:

I urge all of you to stay members of the Company Association and join the 75th Ranger Infantry Association and to stay away from other such associations that have been formed to procure Rangers. Reasoning: You can strengthen or weaken

our Regiment Association. At the present time, the 75th Ranger Infantry Association is fighting to approve the award of the Ranger tab. It is now in writing and supported by official high ranking army officers as well as the Merrill's Marauder Association which is affiliated with our Regiment Association. Officially, our era started in 1965 through 1972. Delta teams, Hatchet teams, LRRP teams, LRP teams, Ranger teams are all included as part of this history and time frame. For those who do not understand, on 10 January 1969, the history of these team detachments, and companies were consolidated under the activation of the 75th Ranger Infantry (CARS) and LRPS were renamed "Ranger". On 1 February 1969, we were deactivated and housed under parent organizations as Rangers. The lettered companies were activated the next day and we became G Co. 75th Ranger Infantry; we were deactivated, officially, October 1971 and stayed inactive until the reorganization and alignment in 1986 were E Co. 51st LRS was reactivated in Europe.

## Ranger Tab

by Newsletter staff

Bill number 2192 from the Senate, authored by Senator D'Amato, is the product of hard work by the 75th Association which includes the likes of *Gunner*. In essence, all members of our company organizations: 196th LRRP Provisional, Company E LRP, Company G Ranger, et al, would be awarded the Ranger Tab. Disqualified would be those who received a dishonorable discharge.

Newsletter staff has been keeping update using the Thomas Bill Summary & Status over the internet. If you would like to find out more on this bill, type in congressional record index. Refer to bill S 2192, 104th 2nd congress.

More importantly, express your thoughts with your lawmaker. Our efforts suggest that we merit the ranger tab as a unit and individuals.

## Chairman's Report

In August of 1994, I attended the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Rendezvous held at Fort Benning Georgia. This was the first regiment Association event that I have attended and the first time that I had been back to Fort Benning since graduating from Ranger School. This event included the dedication of the Ranger Memorial which is located on main post adjacent to the infantry school complex.

After having attended most of our G/75-E/51 reunions, I felt that I had a good grasp of what to expect. What I failed to anticipate was the value of the support that was given by the Ranger Battalion and the Ranger Regiment Headquarters. Having a reunion in conjunction with the active duty personnel provided for attractions, displays, demonstrations and opportunities that you cannot get anywhere else.

First of all, we were all treated like dignitaries regardless of what war that we fought or the unit we served with. The agenda included demonstrations at the airborne school where everyone, including women and children, were given the opportunity to jump from the 34 foot towers (without the traditional screaming, yelling, and general harassment), the "Rangers in Action" demonstration at Victory Pond, and several other impressive events.

The highlight of the week was the dedication of the Ranger Memorial. This was a solemn, well orchestrated event attended by thousands including two of the nine active duty four star generals (General Franks of TRADOC and General Downing of the Special Operations Command) in the army, active duty Rangers, the old timers from all Ranger units, politicians, community leaders and families. This was truly a hallmark event done with all the proper reverence and ceremony that is deserved.

Inclusive with the Regiment Association, several Ranger Company Associations and other groups each conducted their own "Reunions" as a part of this gathering. Many groups were easily distinguished by their specially designed t-shirts, hats, golf shirts and other regalia that identified and sanctified them as being a part of a group within a group. Some may say that having a reunion within a reunion was riding the coat tails of the Regiment Association, my observation was that it was an intelligent way of taking advantage of all that was offered in order to be a part of a significant historical event. What I also observed was that there was no animosity or anything other than total mutual respect between the groups.

As time goes by, our association is destined to have fewer members. On manner in which

our group can assure quality reunions at a reasonable costs regardless of our numbers, is to make our reunions in conjunction with the Regiment Association Events every other year, or at least once to try it and gauge a response from the members. If you have any opinion about this idea, please take the time to write or call a member of the board.

I intend to attend the ceremony in November at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning, Where our Members who died in service of our country will be honored by the dedication of the Memorial Bricks.

Two things that I can assure you after spending time with the Ranger Battalion At Fort Benning: our country is in good hands and we are getting old.

Sincerely,  
Al Stewart

### *Editor's note:*

Any reaction that you may have in regards to content within *Sua Sponte* or ideas that you would like to share, please contact officers-board members whose addresses are located on the page 2-inset, left side.

# SUA SPONTE

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