

# LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



## SUA SPONTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the E-51st and G-75th LRRP Ranger Association, Fall Issue 1998

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### "Of Their Own Accord"

by Newsletter Staff



*Some of the men from our association. Seems we have a difficult time getting everyone together; this is a few of us that were at Benning. From the left: Johnson, Moncada, Jacks, Andrews, Cochran, Svensson, Eastman, Starnes, and Crabtree.*

*(newsletter staff photo)*

Maybe we were an association adrift, but you would find it difficult to believe that now! Returning to our association as officers include Steve "Sour" Crabtree as president, and David "Chief" Moncada as vice-president. The spirit of the group was clearly positive and mirrored the idea of having a good time with family, friends, and new acquaintances. Read within *Sua Sponte* to get that feeling of belonging to a super group of guys!

# Sua Sponte

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**President**

Steve "Sour" Crabtree

**Vice-President**

Dave "Chief" Moncada

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Frank Svensson

**Board of Directors**

Al Stewart, Chairman

"Doc" Bronson

Rick "Jarhead" Collier

Steve "Sour" Crabtree

Danny "Bean" Jacks

Steve "Tower" Johnson

Dave "Chief" Moncada

Frank "Swede" Svensson

Earl Toomey

**Historian**

John "Gunner" Starnes

**Corp. Counsel**

Tom "Dolly" Robison

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

Last year certainly has been, "The best of times and the worst of times." Dave Moncada has agreed to be and was elected our Vice President, Al Stewart was reelected as Chairman of the Board, Frank Svensson has agreed to take on the additional responsibility of Secretary along with Treasurer and I have been elected as your new president. I offer no apology for my not taking an active role in the running of the association for the last several years as I was on a mission. Most of you know what it was.

On the other hand, four of our brothers have go on to join the Ranger in the sky, we (as an association) have experienced considerable "growing pains," and we are in danger of losing the association to lack of interest and direction. Both the President and Vice president have resigned. It has only been by the sheer tenacity of Al Stewart and Frank Svensson that our association is still together.

I have discussed with Tom Robison along with the rest of the officers present at Fort Benning regarding setting up an endowment fund to pay for the education of our children and grandchildren. Boeing will match any donations to this fund up to \$6000 annually for both Lori and me (\$12,000 total) as long as we are still employed by the company (you had better hope we don't hit the lottery!). We are still working out the details and will have more information by next edition. If any of you are interested in helping with this project or have any ideas, let us know.

Both P/75 and E/151 companies have not only purchased bricks at the Ranger Memorial in Fort Benning for all their KIA's but have also purchased bricks for all of their men who have died since the war. As you know, we put all our men in 1996. Since then bricks have been purchased for Anthony Avgoulis, Curtis Jordan, James Pavlic, Ronald Ridenhour, Julian Serna, David Kish and Bob Halbert. I'm still in the brick business so if any of you would like a brick or to purchase one for someone else, send me \$120 along with the name and unit you wish on the brick.

I have a dream. I dream of our association being strong and "Leading the Way" as we did in the early 1990's. I dream of the association having a goal and working together to make that goal happen. I dream of active dues paying members and their wives supporting the association. I dream of the association not so hung up on the semantics of a title that it forgets why it was ever formed for in the first place. I dream of an association not so afraid to, "say anything political," that it says nothing at all; but rather one that is willing to stand up and do or say anything that will reach out and help our fellow man.

**Question:** If one man can have a dream to put a Memorial Brick in for every LRP, LRRP and Ranger killed in action in Vietnam, Grenada, Somalia and Panama and makes that dream come true, what would happen if we all shared the same dream?

**Answer:** Come dream with me.

CRABS

# Gunner's Corner

By John Gunner Starnes



## Hall of Fame Medallion

Each inductee is presented with the specially cast bronze Ranger Hall of Fame medallion, suspended from a red, white, and blue ribbon. The medallion was designed and drawn by Mr. C.J. (Duke) DuShane, 1998 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductee who served in combat with Company P, 75th Infantry (Ranger) during the Vietnam War. The eagle represents strength and in Native American lore symbolizes the warrior. The United States flag represents the proud commitment to our country. The arrows show resolve and the readiness to fight and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The eagle flies over the Ranger Memorial acknowledging the courageous and selfless contributions of past Rangers to their country, the United States Armed Forces, and to the proud tradition of today's Rangers. The laurel wreath which is on the backside of the medallion (not shown) represents the Rangers' competitive spirit and will to succeed, regardless of the challenge. The Sikes-Fairbaine stiletto represents the Rangers' ability to successfully plan and conduct special operations. Together, the medallion signifies selfless sacrifice, professional excellence, and remarkable accomplishments in the defense of the greatest nation in the world and to the highest ideals of service.



### Cash Flow Report

submitted by Frank Svensson

#### Assets

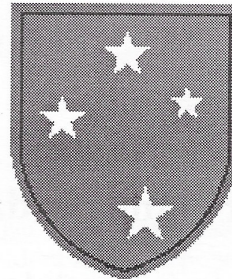
Cash and Bank Accounts  
 Cash \$0.00  
 Checking \$ 10,198.04

Total Assets \$10,198.04  
 Liabilities and Equity  
 Liabilities 0.00  
 Equity \$10,198.04

**Total Equity: \$ 10,198.04**

*Editor's note: Frank: Sorry for limited coverage of your accounting report. Looks like we are in good shape!*

## See You in St. Louis



The 1999 Americal Division Veterans Association and E 51st-G 75th reunion will be held June 17-20 in St. Louis, MO. The reunion headquarters will be at the Radisson Airport Hotel at the junction of I-70 and US 67 (Lindberg Ave.) The reunion chairmen are Ron Ward and Gary Noller.

Reservations for lodging should be made directly with the hotel. Cancelltions can be made anytime before 4:00 PM on the check-in day. Reservations must be made prior to June 15, 1999 in order to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69.00 per night. A complete application will be within the next *Sua Sponte*.

The best time to call the hotel is between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central Time. Phone reservations can be made by calling 314-291-6700. Fax messages should be sent to 314-291-8734. Be sure to mention that you want the Americal Division reunion rate. The same special rate applies to those attending the 196th LIB Association reunion at the same time and place.

The Radisson Airport Hotel is located 2.5 miles from St. Louis-Lambert International Airport. The hotel address is 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044. The hotel offers free van shuttle between the hotel and the airport.

More information on reunion schedules and events will be posted at a later time. You may call Gary Noller at 816-941-0096 for more information or send an e-mail to: [rlward@gateway.net](mailto:rlward@gateway.net) or stay tuned for the next *Sua Sponte* issue in December.



*Team Oregon 12/70: Lemire upper left, Klaus above center, Calvin Trittle above right Wayn Diebe lower left, unknown lower center and lower right. Photo courtesy of Steve Lemire.*

### J.R. McCulloch Takes Over Concessions

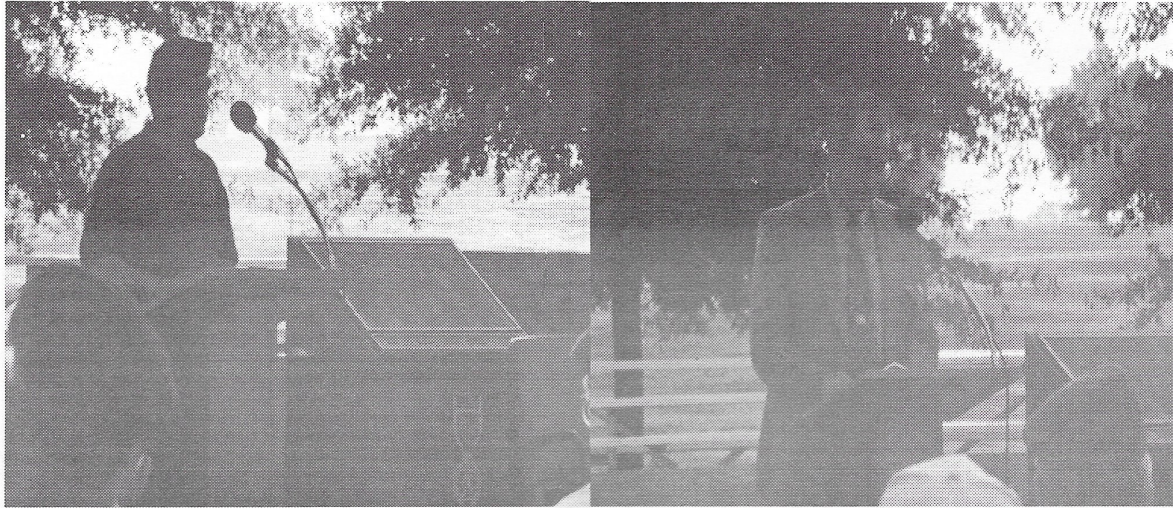
*by Frank Svensson*

J.R. McCulloch has assumed the responsibilities of concessions manager as of 22 August, 98. It will be J.R.'s job to make sure that all items ordered from the quartermaster system are filled and mailed in a timely fashion. McCulloch is very familiar with how our system works having been a past member as well as chairman of the board.

I want to extend my personal apologies and thanks to all of you that have ordered items over the past 6 months or so and waited so patiently. Thanks to Tim Shur, Bill Maack, Dave Benhoff, Robert Leon-Guerrero, George Shook, Joe Roman, Bill Harper, Greg Kucharski, J.R. McCulloch, Mike Beamis, Lee Mincey, Tom Gretchko, and Tom Steele. All of these folks have waited patiently while I tried to straighten out some on-going-problems with our concessions systems. If you ordered something from our concessions system anytime after November 1997, you haven't received it and your name doesn't appear, please let me know. With the addition of J.R., I feel that I can now report to you that I have succeeded in getting things back on track. I know I said that the last issue, but J.R. and I go back to the same team in Vietnam and I have complete trust in him. How's that for pressure, Aries?

# Columbus, Georgia, 9th Annual

Photos courtesy of Newsletter Staff



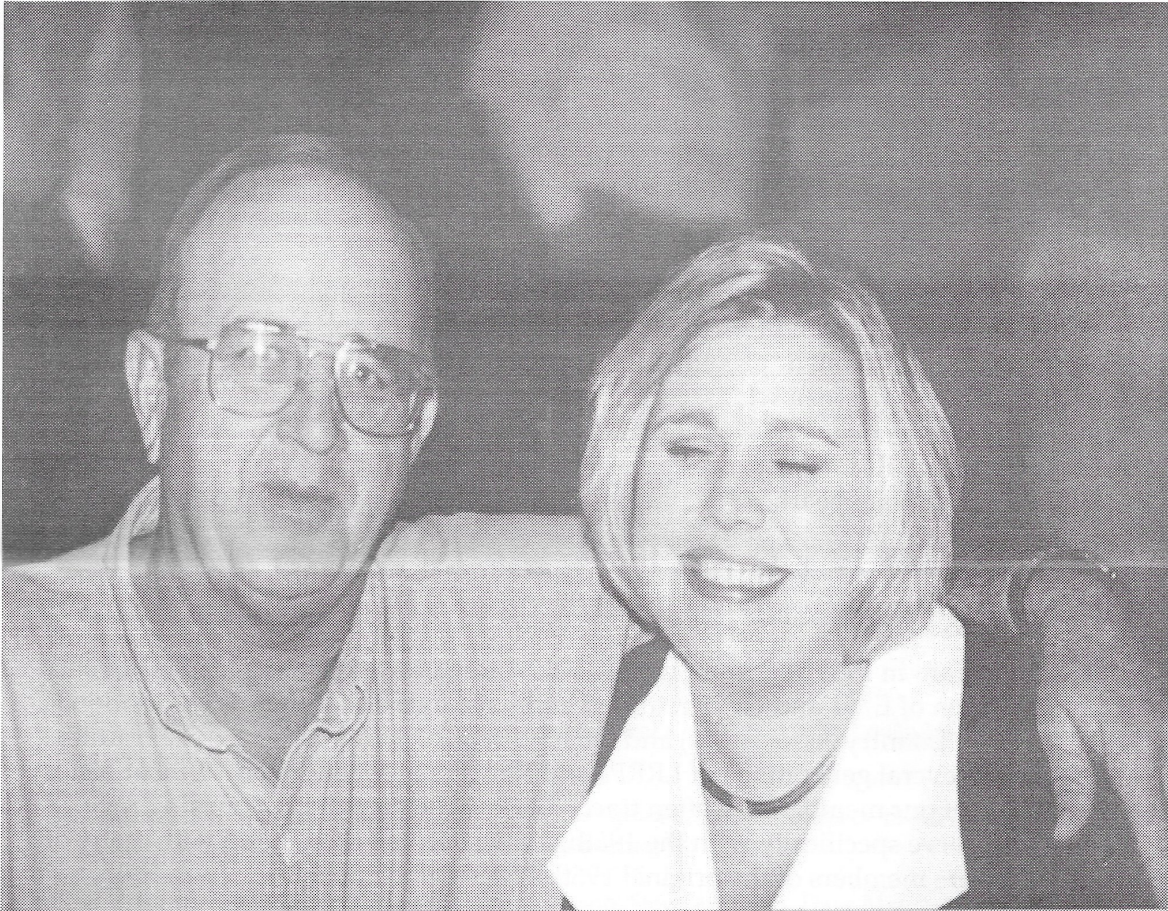
Upper left: "Chief" reading names. Upper Right: "Sour" as mainspeaker. Lower left: Jacks. Below right: "hup two..."



Left: We have the First Lady greet'n us in Warm Springs, the Li'l White House of FDR's. Like this historic site, many of us took time to visit places like Andersonville or Atlanta with its cultural accent of the past and into the future. People from Columbus and all of Georgia made this a great reunion for us!

# Jacks *Knee Deep* in Columbus

by Frank Svensson



*Danny Jacks and his wonderful daughter, Cindy, at the reunion banquet. Thanks, Rody, for the photo.*

At the 75th Ranger Regiment Association banquet held at The Iron Works in Columbus, GA, Danny Jacks was holding *court* with several of the members of our association as well as his daughter Cindy. According to Danny, and I quote, "I have to stand knee deep in chicken shit for 7 days a week. When I get away, I want to go someplace fun and classy. This is Fun and Classy!"

*Sua Sponte* interviewed several other members that expressed, although not in the same manner as Jacks, a good time that will be remembered by those who attended. Traveling the farthest was Steve Lemire and his lovely wife who came all the way from Alaska. It was Steve's first attendance and he looks forward to meeting some of his team mates from Team Oregon.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

*Letters submitted by Michael Chu*

14 June 1998

Col. Ronnie W. Tucker  
Building 525, Stop 104  
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858



Dear Col. Tucker:

I have learned through an article published in the Americal Newsletter (Americal Division Veteran's Association) of the reactivation of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Unfortunately, the newsletter arrived too late for me to attend the re-flagging ceremonies at Fort Shafter in Honolulu on 25 May.

As I am sure you know, the 196th was one of the three Brigades that comprised the backbone of the Americal Division in Vietnam. Back then, the 196th and a LRRP detachment. This company size detachment provided long range reconnaissance for the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and the men who served in this company would eventually become the first LRRPs of the Americal Division, under the newly formed unit know as Co. E, 51st Infantry, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. The transition from a Brigade detachment to a Division LRRP unit was spearheaded under the guidance of Capt. Gary Bjork in 1967.

Later, in February 1969, Co. E, 51st Infantry LRRP took on the colors of Co. G (Ranger) 75th Infantry, and served as the "eyes and ears" of the Americal Division till 1972.

I arrived in Vietnam in 1969 and immediately volunteered to serve in the LRRPs. Twenty years late, the men of E/51 and G/75 reunited and have formed a veterans association (Co. G RANGER 75th Infantry Association) and we hold regular reunions across the country. While covering several generations of LRRPs and Rangers in Vietnam, our combat history and the lineage of our members are often traced back to the men of the "burning rope." And while I did not serve specifically with the 196th, I have become acquainted with many of the men who were members of the original 196th LRRP detachment.

As the Brigade commander, I thought some of this background information would be of interest.

Yours Truly, Michael Chu

**196th Light Infantry Brigade  
Office of the Commander**

June 26, 1998

Hooah Mr. Chu!

Great hearing from a fellow "Charger". I am sorry you missed the reflagging ceremony. We worked through "Find a Brother" to let as many veterans know of this great event as possible. COL. Frank Conaty, our first Vietnam Commander, was able to participate in the Ceremony. Since you reside in Honolulu, please drop in to see us. We are in Building 525 on Fort Shafter. Very Respectfully, Ronnie W. Tucker, Colonel U.S. Army, Charger 6

# Annual Meeting

## Annual Business Meeting Notes

When: 1300 hours, August 22, 1998

Where: Georgia Room, Sheraton Airport Inn, Columbus, Georgia

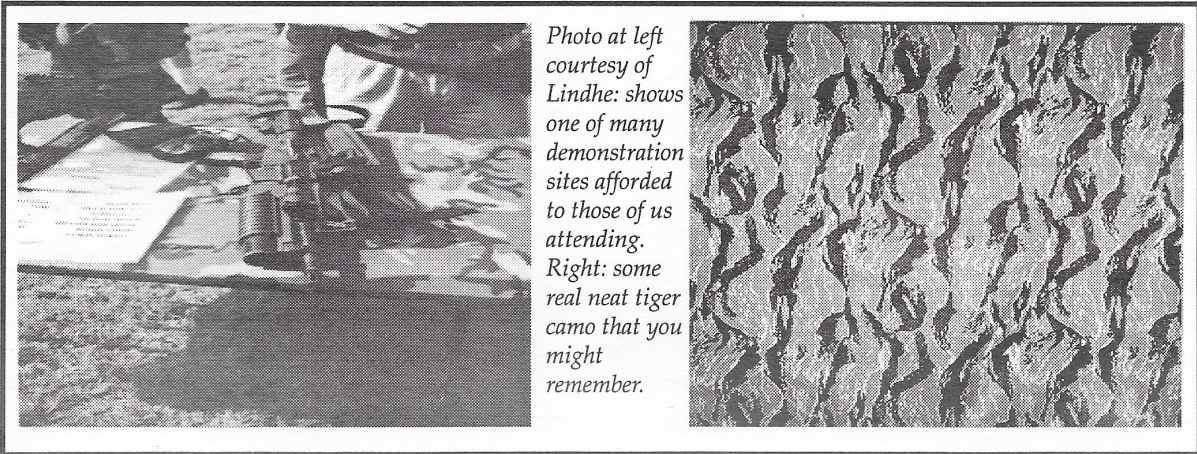
### Outcomes of meeting:

Nominated, seconded and passed the following as new board members: Earl Toomey, Rick Collier, Al Stewart, Frank Svensson, and Steve Crabtree (continuing on the board until nominations next year: Danny Jacks, Dave Moncada, "Doc" Bronson, and Steve Johnson)

- \* Nominated, Seconded and Passed the following as new board members: Frank Svensson, and Steve Crabtree
- \* Established quorum after the vote; now present
- \* Nominated, seconded and passed Earl Toomey and Al Stewart as candidates for chairman of the board
- \* Voted Al Stewart as chairman of the board
- \* Nominated, seconded and passed the following as officers and their positions:

Steve Crabtree	President
Dave Moncada	Vice-President
Frank Svensson	Treasurer/Secretary
- \* Established odd-numbered-years as our company reunion
- \* Established even-numbered-years to "piggy back" with 75th Association sites
- \* Continue annual business meetings with each reunion
- \* Established 99 Reunion to coincide with the Americal's to be held in St. Louis, Missouri; June 17-20, 1999 and 2000 in Savannah, Georgia
- \* Invite LRS E-51st Echo Company, Germany, past-present-future members, to our reunions as guests and to include Echo Company on Sua Sponte mailing list

Members present at annual board meeting: Steve Johnson, Steve Andrews, Dave Moncada, Rody Lindhe, Steve Crabtree, Rick Collier, Tom Robison, Danny Jacks, John Starnes, Steve Lemire, Joseph Meinike, and Frank Svensson



*Photo at left courtesy of Lindhe: shows one of many demonstration sites afforded to those of us attending. Right: some real neat tiger camo that you might remember.*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Family Forces of the Association

*by Lori Crabtree*

#### LETTER TO WIVES OF LRPS/RANGERS

We have gone through a significant amount of growing pains within the organization over the past eight years. Now, all of us need to stand strong and support our LRPS/Rangers behind the lines. This is why we would like you to send your suggestions/recommendations as to what we can do to get the entire family involved in our future reunions. Please include comments on the following as well as your own ideas:

family functions/outings  
raffles/auctions  
women's luncheons/outings  
(This will include a meeting to plan future reunion functions.)

All of you are talented in one way or another, i.e.

painting  
photography  
calligraphy  
poetry  
writing  
sewing  
knitting  
crafts  
computer graphics

We will need LRP/RANGER related items to sell or raffle at reunions, which will be donated as a labor of love. (Your tax accountant can handle the donation filing!)

Please send your replies to us as soon as possible along with a printed spelling of the way you would like your name to appear in our address list to:

Secretary/ LRRP-Ranger Association  
6964 Berkshire Ave  
Alta Loma, CA  
91701

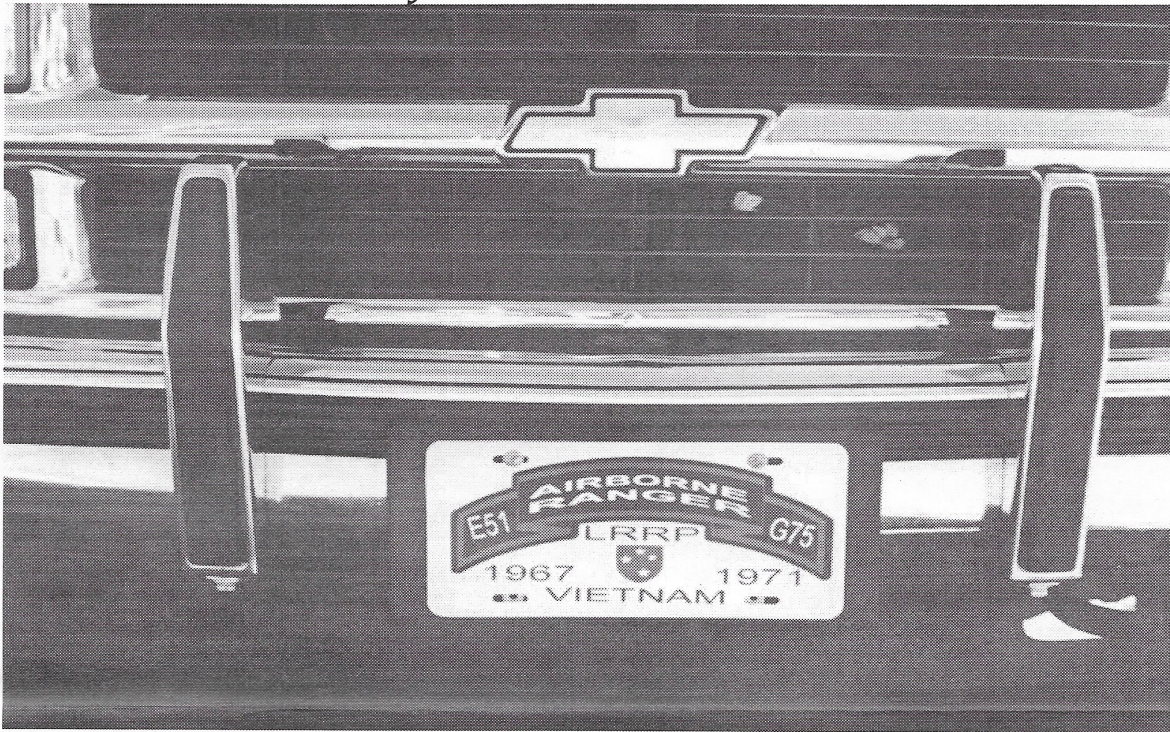
Ladies, please remember this is support behind the lines, not a HOSTILE TAKEOVER!

IN LRP/RANGER LOVE,

Lori Crabtree                      Carol Svensson  
Pam Johnson                      Megan Moncada

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### J.R.'s Concessions



Licence Plates: \$20

Hats: \$15

Polo shirts: \$26

Belt Buckles: \$10

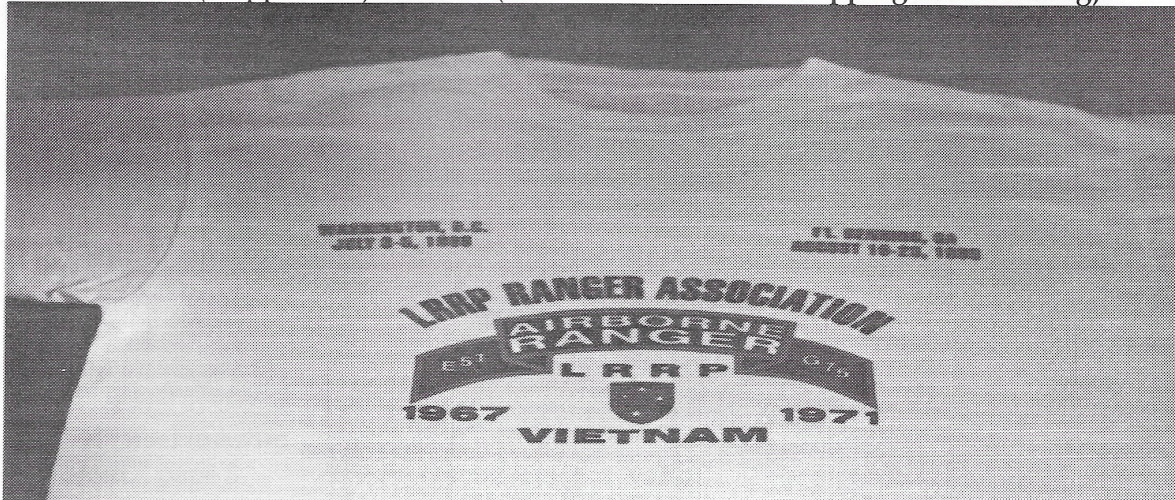
T-shirts: \$15 (has D.C. and Benning 98 Dates!)

Who We Were Video: \$20

Remit to:

Frank Svensson- 6964 Berkshire Avenue-Alto Loma-Ca-91701

Items and size (if applicable) ordered (all items add 10% for shipping and handling).



SUA SPONTE 11



**E/51 G/75**

# *Sua Sponte*

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124

