

LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



1966 VIETNAM 1971

SUA SPONTE

1999 Summer issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPS, and G-75th Rangers

Sua Sponte Lineup

St. Louis Lineup ...

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Spirit of St. Louis

by Sua Sponte Staff



This is not Charles Lindbergh flying around St. Louis. This is John W. "Shenk" Shenkaruk in his brand-new Harley Davidson that he has driven from Detroit, parked in front of the Radisson Hotel. Sua Sponte Staff photo.

Another successful reunion with ideas that will hopefully generate more interest in next year's reunion at Washington D.C. There were 325 rooms sold out for the members of our organization, the Americal, and the 196th Brigade Brigade. Despite our differences (few), we found more in common (many): ***The Spirit of St. Louis!***

Sua Sponte

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 Charles "Wolf" Williams
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 Tom "Dolly" Robison

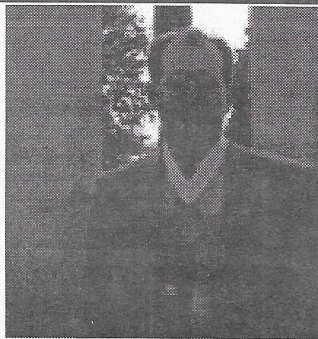
Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association.

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.



President's Letter 04 Dated 24 June 1999

Another reunion has come and gone some very positive things happened. We have new blood on the board of directors. We agreed to disagree like gentlemen (thanks to Chuck Williams' mediating). We will be asking the members in good standing for organization input via ballot. All in all I think our board meeting was the most productive that I have yet attended.

Regarding future reunions, you will be receiving a ballot shortly again asking the age old question, "Are we going to hold our reunions every year or every other?" Let's put this puppy to bed forever. Next year's will be held in Washington, DC. I realize that most of our reunions have been held in the eastern part of the US and that we have already had two there, but no one offered to host AND BE POINTMAN for any other locale. Dave (Nine Toes) Motlow made a pitch to hold 2001's reunion in Florida and was well received. We'll have more after we hear back from the members.

If any of you have some thing you wish the membership to vote on, let one of the officers or board members know. That way it may be included in the upcoming ballot. All members in good standing will receive a ballot along with a self addressed stamped envelope so there is no reason not to respond. At present we have slated:

1. Frequency of reunions (every year or every other year).
2. Election of Officers by membership vote. Rather than by the board.
3. I would like to add, limiting the length of terms for all officers except Treasurer (you're welcome Frank) to two years. We need new blood in the organization and term limits would open slots that now would not be. I am adamantly opposed to lifetime appointments.
4. Revising the Bylaws from a quorum being 2/3 of the board members present to a simple majority.

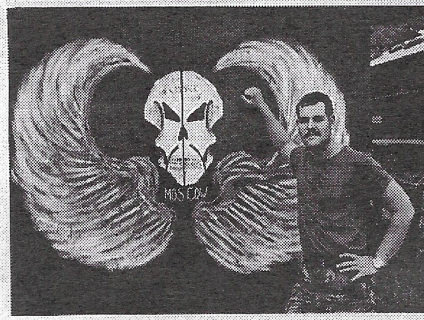
It was discouraging that only about thirty of us showed up for this reunion. We all made a pact to call our no-shows and plead, beg, encourage or threaten all to attend the next reunion. Expect calls from your buddies in the coming months. The easiest way to stop them will be to just make up your mind to attend next year's reunion. AND DO IT!

Years ago Gary Gentry received the Soldiers Medal for saving the life of Henry Tabaino. Last weekend I heard of another act that deserves the same. Nine Toes Motlow started feeling poorly about three years ago. At first the doctors couldn't diagnose what the problem was. He kept getting worse and worse. Finally after several years it was discovered that his kidneys were failing and that he needed a transplant. No compatible donor could be found. Dave kept getting worse and was on his deathbed. Then a miracle happened. A donor was found. Dave's attendance at our last reunion was the first time in over two years that he left his home. My thanks, my appreciation for saving my friend's life and my love go to Agnes Motlow, Dave's wife, for bring a new meaning to the phrase, "the two shall become one." Dave carries one of her kidneys. Her only complaint is that she can no longer argue with Dave as, "It's like arguing with myself!" My only question is, "Dave, where is that M60?"

CRABS

Chairman's Report

by Al Stewart



And a great time was had by all!

Seeing old friends, making new friends and remembering those unable to attend or no longer with us, that is what reunions are all about. Telling stories, looking at old photographs and struggling with faded memories. Having the opportunity to do these things and honor our friends and fellow veterans is what we are all about. St. Louis was a great place for our gathering.

Drastically outnumbered by members of the Americal Division and 196th Light Infantry Brigade, with over 600 in attendance, our members held our own, mixing with others or moving into the familiar comfort of our own hospitality room. About 25 of our members plus family and friends gathered at the Radisson in St. Louis.

Our hosts did a great job of providing for transportation, tours, vendors, displays and most importantly, hospitality. The NVA equipment displays and the Charlie model gunship as well as the Hotel model Huey, all brought back memories and gave us an opportunity to point things out to our families and friends to bring them a little closer to understanding things that they will never be able to fully comprehend.

The Great Arch signifying the "Gateway to the West," the Mississippi River with its stern-wheelers and Old Town St. Louis gave us an appreciation of the history of our country. An opportunity to see Mark McGuire and his Cardinals during a four-game stretch with the Mets gave us a chance to see a guy who is making history in our lifetime. St. Louis provided us with a great opportunity for a reunion/vacation site that could be enjoyed by everyone.

During our business meeting, we decided to go back to Washington DC June 30-July 2nd next year. Make your plans now for what should be a great event for the new millennium.

Two other issues that we have struggled with as an organization will be put to a vote of our general membership. First, we will ask you to vote on the frequency of our reunions. After 10 years our attendance has dropped off so we decided to have the membership determine if we continue to meet every year or change to every other year. Also, we want the membership to determine if we should continue to allow the Board to elect our Association Officers or have the general membership choose Officers for a two-year term. A ballot will be forthcoming for these issues. One other issue decided in St. Louis was to make a slight (but important) change in our Association logo. We will include the patch of the 196th L.I.B. beside that of the Americal Division. This will ensure that all the bases are covered for our membership.

We currently have 132 paid members in our Association and are always looking to bring old members back into the fold and looking for those that we have not yet found. If you are not sure of your status regarding dues, give Frank Svensson a call to make sure that you are current.

Again, include our Washington reunion in your plans for the year 2000!

The Battle of Cam Duc

by "Gunner" John Starnes



To the left is an unidentified captain of the E 52 LRS. Needless to say, to the right, is our man "Gunner" having made another jump like so many of our members who wore the wings on our chests. Photo courtesy of John "Gunner" Starnes.

After completion of MACV Recondo School, I was asked if I wanted to volunteer for a mission with Special Forces. Americal put me on TDY status via verbal orders. There were four of us that volunteered while at Nha Trang. One Lurp was from the 1st Cav, another from 9th Division, the other was from 4th Division. Yours truly was from E 51st (LRP) Company. So it was a hop, skip and jump by 1/4 ton jeep. An E7 from a B-Team was our driver. At the B Camp we met the Team XO and a weapons Sergeant. They were the BJP Team. The rest were out with the A-Teams. Our mission was to support the camp in Absence of Americans. There were two units there comprised of Montagnard "Yards" and Vietnamese CIDG. The XO warned us, "Don't trust the Vietnamese since the two in the camp are VC. If you see someone going through the gate or over the wall shoot them dead." The Yards stayed away from the Vietnamese and both units took turns at watch on the wall. The Yards had the wall after dark until morning. The Yards communally slept under the messhall waking at noon and began their usual activities preparing lunch.

After the breakfast meal, all crew served, weapons cleaning began followed with personal weapons with the exception of the Yards. The XO and the SF Buck Sergeant slept at the commo bunker, taking turns monitoring the radios to the A Teams out on missions. I, as well as the other Lurps, got familiar with the camp and settled in. I manned the north wall and controlled the 81mm mortar pits and quad 50 position. For more security I kept two LAWS and had 3 claymore clackers ready for firing. *Continued on page 5*

Feature Article Cont'd

Continued from page 4.

The 4th Division Lurp had the east wall and the 4.2 mm Mortar and the south wall was manned by the 9th Division Lurp with a 60 machine gun. The 1st Cav Lurp had the west wall and another Quad 50 machine gun. Day 1 was uneventful. Day 2 was also uneventful and Day 3 started to be the same until 5:51 P.M..

It was early August 1968. We started receiving RPG rocket fire into and around the camp. Small arms fire was heard from the tree line from the north wall and towards the east wall. We went from 25% alert to 100% in seconds. The Yards were on the walls and the Vietnamese manned all mortar pits with the first 81mm rounds leaving the camp within 25 seconds heading for the tree line north.

The SF Sergeant came to my position to direct my fire into the tree line from north to east. The Lurp controlling the 4.2mm mortar was laying down fire east to north. The XO requested Air Force fast movers by radio and asked for napalm in the north tree line. We continued our firing until the F-4s came and dropped their deadly payload on our attackers. The air got hot and for one split second it took my breath away!

During the fighting the VC's inside the camp tried to escape through the gate. I saw them and got the attention of the SF Officer. I took aim and hit one in the lower back. I aimed again but missed the other. No matter, the XO killed him with a head shot and the SF Sergeant finished the other with a four round burst.

In twenty minutes time the fighting was only a few small arms fire from the tree line and in less than an hour, the tree line was quiet with smoke rising from the napalm. Our battle was officially over in an hour but the fight had shifted to the hamlet west of the camp. We went on 50% alert on the walls and an hour later we could see and hear the explosions and small arms fire with many huts ablaze.

We stayed for a total of eight days with more uneventful days after the third day. The SF E7 came and policed us and then returned us to the Delta Compound. An hour later, he took us to the Airport in Nha Trang. I flew back to Chu Lai and was picked up by the first Sergeant Whitcomb who put me on detail at the new club being built at the commo shack. In 1984, I learned that the enemy we fought was a battalion of the 29th NVA Regiment with the scrimmage being called, "The Battle of Cam Duc."

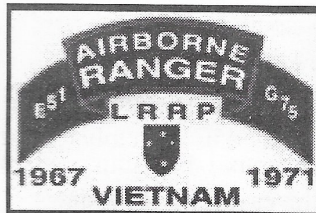


To the left is the sign which was posted in the main airport at Chu Lai where Gunner flew back from TDY. Like so many of us, I think a lot of us felt better when we saw this sign leaving not arriving Chu Lai.

This photo is courtesy of Steve Kerchenfaut, member of the 176th Assault Helicopter Company which was stationed in Chu Lai and covered our butts on many occasions in Southeast Asia.

Sua Sponte Web Page Site

by Sua Sponte Staff



Home

Our Wall

Officers

Historical Photos

Feature Article

News Update

Other Links

Concessions

Sua Sponte

<http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte>

Sua Sponte is now going cyberspace with a website that reflects a number of historical moments and current presence. *Sua Sponte* asks for your support in filling in the above categories ; giving input for change of the website; but most importantly to add photos and information to reflect our heritage of brotherhood in a timely manner. The above pictured categories are what we are trying to add to. We hope that with your help, the current web page will be "completed" by the first of next year. Secondly, this webpage can be *downloaded* to a hard copy that could be part of an effort of John "Gunner" Starnes for a Company Album. He has been working on this undertaking for several years. Can you imagine what kind of web page we can have if every member sends 1 photo to be scanned and returned to sender. With photos we can add a picture of history in the making, representing a time era from 1966-1971. Please send returnable photos and stories to:

Steve Johnson
Route 2, Box 178 D
Bemidji, MN 56601

Our Wall

Our Wall contains a picture of the Memorial at Ft. Benning, GA. If you notice, each underlined brick (representing our fallen Brothers) has some information. You can add information, a story, or a photo to be included for each veteran that you knew. Simply forward to *Sua Sponte* and this will be directed towards the Webmaster. Again, all stories, photos, etc., will be returned to you.

Officers

If for any reason that you have to reach an officer, simply open this button (Officers) and you can immediately email them regarding your concerns.

The other buttons already have some information (but not all) included. Pitch in and help make our web page a usable item for our members to use and also to show the world who we were and more importantly: who we are now!

ssponte@paulbunyan.net is the address should you have any questions in regards to this undertaking. Electronic mailing (email), for those of us that have it, are aware of how this helps with communication and how to save a ton of money from the phone companies.

Don't worry, regular mail and phones still work. Give us a hand and send some stuff in. Thanks.

Company Information

by Sua Sponte Staff

2000 Reunion at Washington D.C.

Tentative dates for the next reunion to be held at Washington D.C. are June 30, July 1, and July 2nd. Tom Nash is working on this reunion site and a completed itinerary will be included in September's issue of *Sua Sponte*. Also, Vic Valeriano is trying to attain discounts for airfares to D.C. These two individuals did a super job in having last years "get together" in D.C. and they are both eager to do as well, if not better (if that is possible), for next year's reunion in D.C.

Important to note (as explained in the President's letter) you will be getting a ballot in regards to the question: should we have a reunion every year or every other. Please, when you get this ballot, send your response in the supplied self addressed-stamped envelope.

Tom "Dolly" Robison

Sua Sponte has been informed that "Dolly" is fighting cancer. Everyone wishes well for Tom in yet another battle that he has always overcome from the past. We certainly support Tom and his family in combating this disease that has affected so many of us. Drop "Dolly" a line or card at:

Tom "Dolly" Robison
4690 Nixon Rd
Diamondale, MI 48821

or: E51LRRP@AOL.COM



This lovely couple at this year's reunion at St. Louis is David "Nine-toes" and his wife Agnes. They have invited members to Florida in 2001, regardless of the ballot (every or every other year reunion). As mentioned by Steve (Sour) Crabtree, Agnes has become part of Nine-toes (literally): She donated one kidney for Dave. Sua Sponte photo.

Rucksack 2000



Up-date on Rucksack 2000

By Earl Toomey

Subject: Rucksack 2000
Date: Tue, 22 Jun 1999 18:59:58 EDT
From: TOOMEYEK1@aol.com
To: ssponte@paulbunyan.net

Update on Rucksack 2000
By Earl Toomey

As of the St. Louis Reunion there are still a few seats open on the Trip to Vietnam the 14 - 24 January 2000 at the cost of \$ 1535 per person. If anyone is interested there is still a \$ 250 deposit with the remainder of \$ 1285 due on 15. October 1999.

A brief intinerary

Day 1 Depart LAX at 12:44 P.M. Trang	Day 7 Flight to Nha
Day 2 Arriving Saigon 11:55 P.M.	Day 8 Free day in Nha Trang
Day 3 Full day sight-seeing Saigon free day	Day 9 Flight to Saigon,
Day 4 Cu Chi, Tay Ninh, Cambodian border Saigon,sightseeing	Day 10 Free day
Day 5 Flight to Danang, then to Chu Lai Korea	Day 11 Depart for Seoul,
Day 6 Tour of Chu Lai, Quang Ngai 24 hr Seoul sight-seeing	

Arriving back at LAX at 10:40 A.M.... on the 24. January

Price of Tour includes all air transportation, hotels, breakfast, English speaking guides.

POC Earl L. Toomey (941-542-4306) TOOMEYEK1@aol.com
Tom Nash (201-991-8562) znhoboken@aol.com
Jerry Howard (360-825-8496)

Looking forward to a good turnout and remember LRRP's and Rangers all ways lead the way!

Treasurer's Report

INFLOWS

TOTAL CONCESSIONS	\$624.10
DUES:	
DUES 1998	\$420.00
DUES 1999	\$890.00
DUES 2000	\$860.00
DUES 2001	\$ 40.00
DUES 2002	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
TOTAL DUES	\$ 2,240.00
FEBR. INTEREST	\$43.38
JAN. INTEREST	\$18.48
JULY INTEREST	\$39.00
JUNE INTEREST	\$42.00
LIFETIME DUES	\$250.00
MARCH INTEREST	\$37.07
MAY INTEREST	\$42.19
NOV. INTEREST	\$41.86
OCT. INTEREST	\$39.78
REEMB. PRINTING	\$102.84
SEPT. INTEREST	\$39.52
<u>WEB PAGE</u>	<u>-\$180</u>
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$3,682.11

OUTFLOWS

BALANCE ADJUST	\$20.00
CONCESSION EXP.	\$702.00
CONCESSION SHP.	\$728.81
FILING FEE	\$ 10.00
POSTAGE	\$236.53
<u>PRINTING</u>	<u>\$1,428.62</u>
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$3,235

ASSETS \$10,761.55

LIABILITIES NONE!

TOTAL EQUITY \$10,761.55

New Blood

by Sua Sponte Staff

One of the most important events held at our annual business meeting was the election of three new board members (complete minutes of that meeting in September's Sua Sponte). Dennis Nye, Tom Nash, and "Top" Williams are welcomed as new board members; their enthusiasm will no doubt have a positive effect on our organization.

Stepping down from the board to assume duties as President is Steve Crabtree. Also stepping down is Frank Svensson who wants to concentrate his efforts as Secretary/Treasurer of the organization.

Danny Jacks who has been a longtime board member is taking a "break" from the action and will no doubt enroll his services in the near future. The board would like to thank the people stepping down thus allowing "new blood" to carry the torch into the new century.

It has been mentioned within this issue about the importance of returning the ballot issue (President's report) of a reunion every or every other year. Also, the importance of sending in past obits (page 10) and a contact source for this information if needed.

Let's not forget, too, the webpage (page 6) undertaking and the importance as a communication device and representing us as a "page in history" not to be forgotten. Again, the web page can be "downloaded" for a hard copy that is capable of producing a company album, one that "Gunner" needs our help with.

Cartoons by Delbert



Funerals

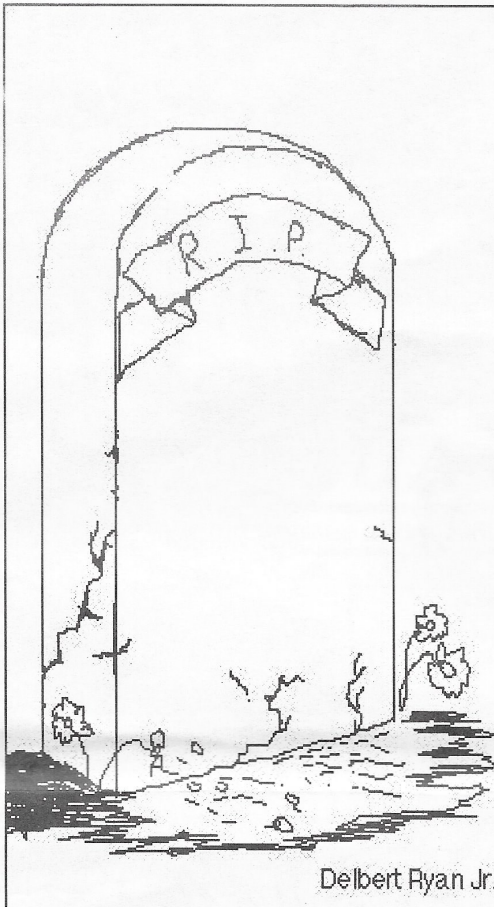
by Sua Sponte Staff

We all know that through attrition, we have members that are no longer with us. For whatever reason, the officers of the Association have expressed a concern for not properly giving deceased members representation at a funeral (whenever possible) and printing an obituary notice within *Sua Sponte*.

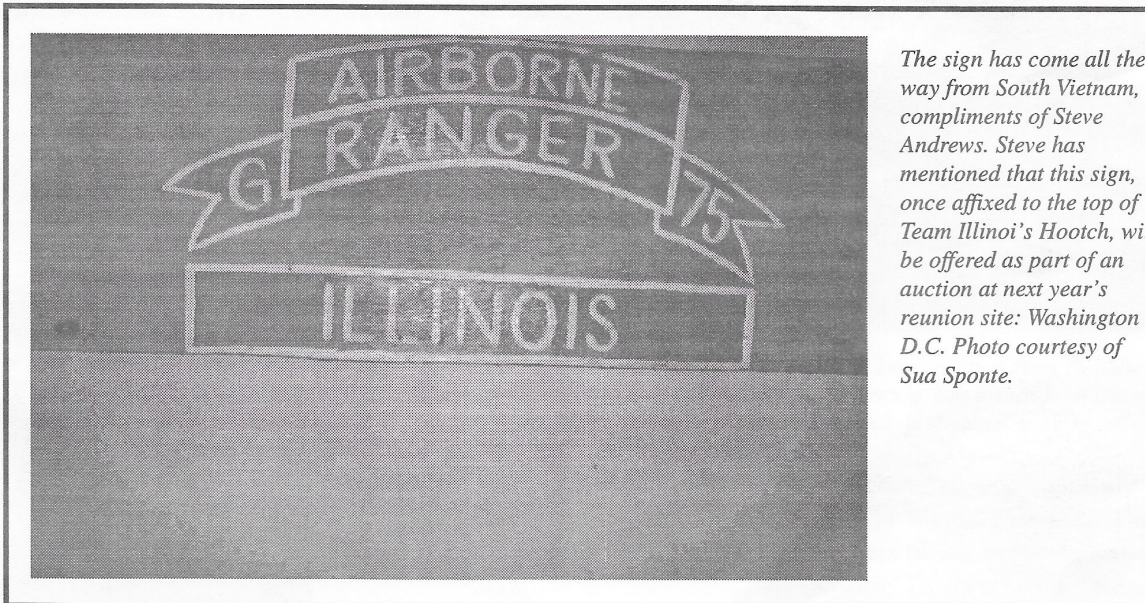
Family members and friends: If you are aware of a death of a member of our organization, please contact *Sua Sponte* (ssponste@paulbunyan.net) or any other officer or board member so we might be able to:

1. If it is at all possible, a company member would present at the funeral
2. We would print an obit submitted to us

If you know of a member who has passed away and have an obit, please forward it to *Sua Sponte* so we can print it and keep our members informed out of respect for those no longer with us.



Delbert Ryan Jr.



The sign has come all the way from South Vietnam, compliments of Steve Andrews. Steve has mentioned that this sign, once affixed to the top of Team Illinois' Hootch, will be offered as part of an auction at next year's reunion site: Washington D.C. Photo courtesy of Sua Sponte.



Jim knows that you can have your cake and eat it too! Sua Sponte photo

Sua Sponte

Sua Sponte

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