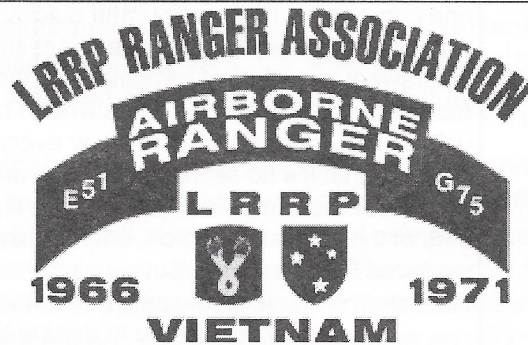


" of their own accord"

Sua Sponte



Western USA
2002
Reunion

July 27th-30th
2001
Gathering in
Gettysburg

00-01 Spring Issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPS, and G-75th Rangers

Sua Sponte Lineup

Headliner ...

Procrastinators lose to Heartbreak Hotel, but still have a chance to attend this year's gathering...page 1

Germany... Share the times that the Pruden Competition gave us...page 3

Health and the VA... Information that you need to know may benefit you...page 7

Gettysburg Gathering ... Hotel and b & b information for those that want to attend Gettysburg this summer

Piss Tube Accolades...Bob Simpson leads a list of contributors that needs to be recognized...page 9

Next Issue... Hawaii is stage for a mini reunion... back page!

Concessionspage 11

Heartbreak Hotel

By Sua Sponte Staff

The Eisenhower Inn for the Gettysburg Gathering has been sold out! The backup hotel, Quality Inn, may too be sold out by the time you get this publication. You can call 1-800-228-5151 to get the matched rate of \$89 per night plus tax at the Quality Inn.

There is a complete page listing hotels and b & b's on page 6 for the Gettysburg Gathering. For you web surfers, you can get special hotel rates by using your search engine (a favorite is www.dogpile.com) or by calling 1-877-675-9330 for those special rates.

Earl Toomey has booked a room for 7:00 P.M. Friday, July 27th at the Eisenhower Inn for Hors D'oeuvres, drinks and our Gettysburg Gathering. Our dates are July 27, 28, and 29th, with check out on the morning of the 30th; early arrival on the 26th at the IKE.

We could not get a hospitality suite for every night. The 196th has hospitality suites from Thursday to Saturday. So we can drink in their hospitality suites Thursday and Saturday night. Friday we have our own.

A complete itinerary will be place on the web site (www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte) and in the next publication of Sua Sponte in June.

Remember to bring something for our auction, if you can.

by Tom Nash

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 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: 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.

A Note to the Members

The job of President has its moments of joy, thought, sometimes bittersweet, and those moments I hate. The joy, of course, stems from the kind of things you would expect: the pleasure of seeing old teammates and friends get together with each other; the satisfaction of seeing someone come to his first reunion and quickly overcome any reticence he has when he resumes his place with his teammates and friends; and the bittersweet moments of remembering those no longer with us. The moments I hate are those times when I hear that another member of our unit is sick. I don't pretend to know every member of the Association, but I do know that it's no secret that far too many of us have health problems. And, it seems to me, of those who are ill, far too many are fighting cancers of the prostate or colon, enemies every bit as insidious as any which we faced 35 years ago. But we can all take steps to minimize the potential impact of these diseases on us personally.

It's not my intent here to debate the causes, or to be a missionary, but I do want to convince every member of the Association who reads this, to have his PSA (prostate specific antigen) tested and to have a colonoscopy. Every guy in our Association, every guy that was in our unit, every one, should have both procedures if he has not already done so. To defeat these enemies requires that we know them, and this means early detection. I'm no doctor, and certainly no expert, but I know this – cancers of the colon or prostate can and do kill, and I know that early detection can be effective in treating them. Early detection in both cases gives you options, and gives you life.

It's really a simple thing to have your PSA tested; it's just a blood test like any other. If the PSA is within the normal range, you're probably OK. In some cases, if the blood test reveals a high PSA, it might be necessary to have a biopsy. I have had a high PSA for the last several years. This means that I have to have regular blood tests and frequent biopsies. I now know that I'm on top of the problem. Similarly, a colonoscopy is a routine procedure, and is not painful in the least, but it can give you a heads up if you have a problem. Any concern over the misguided self perception of indignity is fleeting when you consider the alternative.

There are members of this Association who have fought this fight and have won, and there are others who are fighting the fight now. You may know them. These men are a great resource for those that want to know and understand the implications of these diseases and the benefits of early detection. If any of you want further information or wish to speak with someone, let us know, and we will have someone from the Association contact you. In addition, there has been some discussion of using the Association, the Association's web site, or *Sua Sponte* as a focus or forum for health issues, and to naming an Association representative as a sort of ombudsman on VA related health issues. We'd be interested in your thoughts on this.

There really is no excuse – you owe it to yourself, your family and all those who know you to take what amounts to a simple precaution: get tested and do it soon.

Best Regards, Tom Nash

(please see related article on page 7)

Germany Invite

Darmstadt Germany with E 51st Rangers LRS

The heritage and tradition of the U. S. Army Rangers (Long Range Patrol) is alive and well in an elite group of young men known as Company E 51st Infantry. Our plane was met by a young 1st Lieutenant by the name of David Painter and his beautiful and charming wife Cory. The nick name of L.T. quickly attached and he proceeded to take charge of our transportation and housing requirements. Lt. Painter is 1st platoon leader and we had two of his people as our constant escorts and drivers. L.T. insured that we had everything we needed to make our visit one of the most memorable events in our lives.

Upon arriving at the company area just outside of Darmstadt, and just down the road from our hotel, I couldn't help but get a nostalgic twinge when I saw the Co. E 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol blue and white scroll above the door of company headquarters. Captain John Scott Nelson who enthusiastically welcomed us to Germany met us. We were told that we would be going to the field with the men of his command for the various events, which make up the Pruden Competition. We sat in on a briefing session with the other company officers and senior NCOs. An equipment check came next and each item carried by these soldiers was displayed with an explanation of how each piece functioned. The sophistication and complexity of several pieces of equipment, especially their various radios and encryption devices was remarkable. My mouth began to water when I saw the night vision scopes each man carried. The jungle would have been ours for the asking if we had any of these devices on our teams.

We spent a great deal of time talking and interacting with the men of Echo Company. We ate in their mess hall and enjoyed their youthful enthusiasm. They treated us like royalty. We accompanied them to the Odenwald Forest for night navigation exercises. All members of our party including the ladies, feasted on MRE's. They tasted better than LURP rations as far as I was concerned. But the individual packets were too heavy to be taken to the field without stripping them of unneeded items. Danny, Frank and I had an opportunity to sit down with these guys and we told how LRRP missions were pulled in the Nam. Several came up to us later and said how much they admired what we did in Nam and how they wanted to follow in our foot steps.

A full dress military ball aboard a ship that sailed up the Rhine topped off the week. Ranger units from the past, including those from Nam, and present were honored and toasted. Danny and Larry Pruden made sure that Bob Pruden was the focal point of the celebration. Danny did a great job in showing the human and funny side of Bob and Larry told what it was like growing up with his brother.

I can honestly say that I have never been treated better than we were by Captain Nelson and the officers and men of his command. If any members of the Association have an opportunity of going to Germany to meet these fine young men, I would highly recommend that they do so.

We can rest comfortably knowing that the dedication, enthusiasm, heritage and traditions of the U.S. Army Rangers (Long Range Patrol) are in good hands.

Tom & Sharon Robison

(photos on the Pruden Competition on the next two pages)

Pruden Event

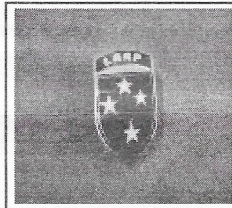
Photos on this and adjoining page are from Frank Svensson



Upper Right Photo: Top steps left to right are Danny and me (Frank). Bottom steps, left to right are Martina (Sgt. Newman's girlfriend and our interpreter), Cindy Jacks, Sandy and Larry Pruden

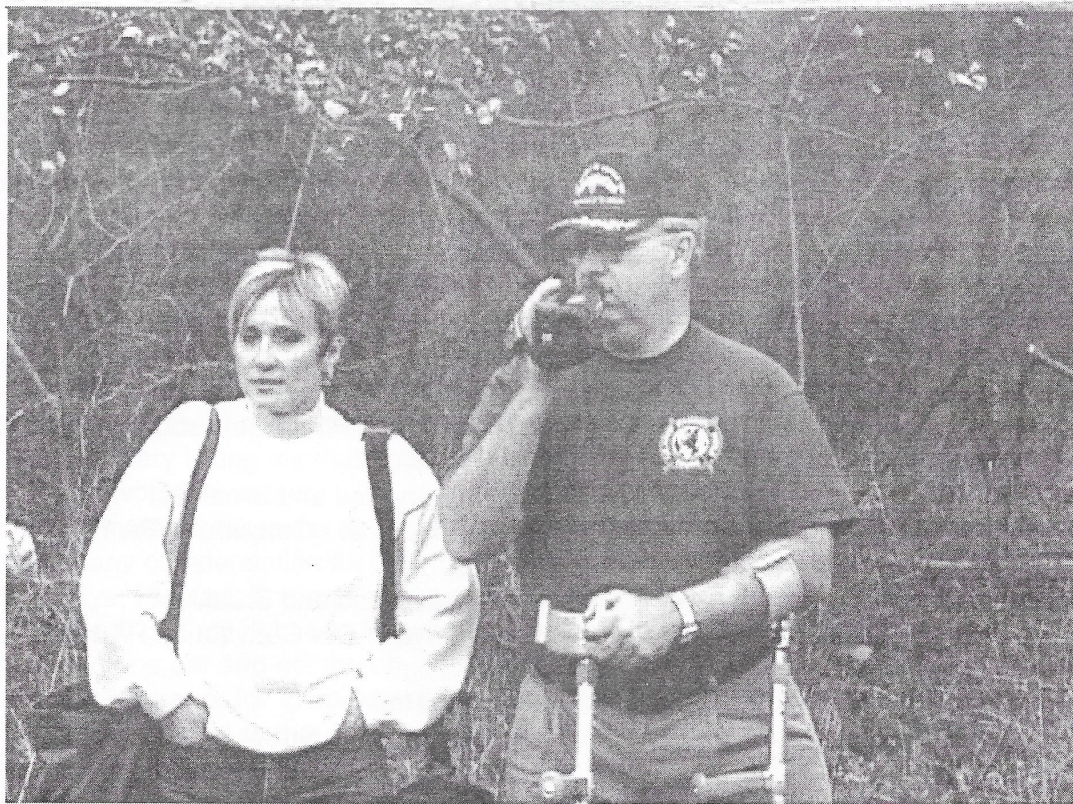
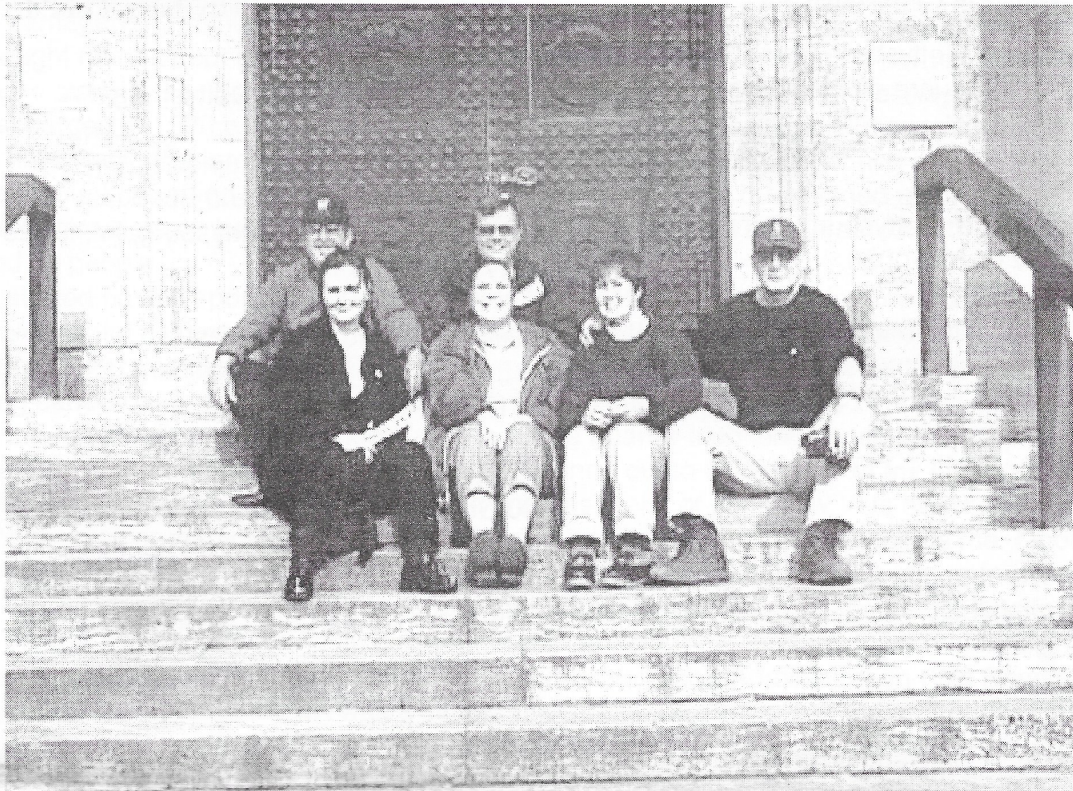
SSG Herlick, TL of team 1-3 the winners of the Pruden Competition is at left with proud members of that winning team. He's an ex-Marine but managed to be successful in spite of this fact. "Jarhead", a.k.a. Rick Collier, is standing tall, too, only he is off shore on a derrick in the Gulf of Mexico.

From left to right: Tom Robison, Frank Svensson, Danny Jacks, and Larry Pruden. These guys, too, are standing tall. All representing Robert Pruden; fallen brother. The hats should be a popular item for wear by any other lrrp. Keep close track of those hats, guys!



Lower Right Photo: Tom Robison and his wife Sharon, make sure that no one cheats in the Pruden Event as competitor LRS in the present-day Army. Tom and Sharon, perhaps, look like NATO observers! Question: Do the Robisons have any famous wine and beer for this next year's gathering?

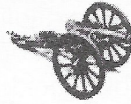
E/51st Germany Invite



Lodging

Hotels in Gettysburg, PA

Best Western Gettysburg Hotel Est 1797
One Lincoln Square - Gettysburg 17325
1-800-528-1234



Days Inn
865 York Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
17325; 1-717-334-0030

Gettysburg Hotel Internet Specials - brought
to you by AccessAmerica and Lodging.com.
Call Toll Free: 1-877-675-9330

Travelodge/Thrift 1-717-334-9281

Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center
2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA
17325

SOLD OUT

Holiday Inn - Gettysburg Battlefield
516 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
17325; 1-717-334-6211

Holiday Inn Express - Gettysburg
869 York Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
17325; 1-717-337-1400

James Gettys Hotel
27 Chambersburg St - Gettysburg 17325
1-800-900-5275

Quality Inn - Gettysburg Motor Lodge
380 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
17325 **Alternative Site; 1-800-228-5151**

Bed & Breakfast in Gettysburg

Battlefield Bed and Breakfast
2264 Emmitsburg Rd - Gettysburg, PA
17325; 1-888-766-3897

Brickhouse Inn
452 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, PA 17325
1-800-864-3467

Bed & Breakfast in Gettysburg, Cont'd

Doubleday Inn
104 Doubleday Avenue Gettysburg, PA
17325; 1-717-334-9119

Farnsworth House Bed and Breakfast
401 Baltimore Street Gettysburg, PA 17325
1-717-334-8838

Gaslight Inn Bed & Breakfast
33 East Middle Street Gettysburg, PA 17325
1-717-337-9100

HerrTavern and Publick House
900 Chambersburg Road Gettysburg, PA
17325; 1-800-362-9849

Hickory Bridge Farm



Historic Cashtown Inn

Keystone Inn
231 Hanover Street Gettysburg, PA 17325

Old Barn Bed and Breakfast

Pond View Farm Inn Bed & Breakfast
530 Carr Hill Road Gettysburg, PA 17325

Ragged Edge Inn

The Doubleday Inn
104 Doubleday Ave - Gettysburg, PA 17325

The Lightner Farmhouse
2350 Baltimore Pike - Gettysburg, PA 17325

The Tannery Bed and Breakfast
449 Baltimore St - Gettysburg, PA 17325

Tiber House Bed and Breakfast
58 West Water St - Gettysburg, PA 17325

The Little House
20 N. Washington Street Gettysburg, PA
17325

I damaged my spine at Fort Bragg back in 1968 on my "cherry blast." I never really thought much about it as the pain subsided and I was able to resume a normal life, that is, if one considers a tour in Vietnam with a LRRP/Ranger Unit a normal life. Any way, I was discharged in 1970 and went on my own way. Through out the next thirty years I continued to have back problems that I combated with pain pills, anti-inflammatories and alcohol. I had thought of going to the Veteran's Administration for help but decided against it due to the horror stories I heard from other Vets as to how they had been treated both as patients and as people.

I started having sporadic abdominal pains late in 1998 that became more intense and more painful as time wore on. In January of 2000, after having just about every medical exam known to man, I had a Colonoscopy performed which discovered a three quarter-inch long cancerous polyp in my large intestine. I went into surgery on the 27th and spent three of the next five weeks in the hospital. The "three quarter-inch long cancerous polyp" had grown through the wall of my colon and turned out to be the size of my doctor's fist. After I got out of the hospital, I was really mad as many of my fellow Vets either had died from cancer or many were being diagnosed with exactly the same disease as me. I thought it more than just coincidence that we all served in Vietnam within a five year period, we all had been exposed to Agent Orange and that we all were coming down with various forms of cancer at about the same time. Knowing that I had a long, long recovery ahead and plenty of time on my hands, I decided to apply for Veteran's Administration (VA) Benefits.

My first contact with the VA was a simple phone call. I was told that the appropriate forms would be sent to me, to fill them out and start gathering supporting evidence. I started making phone calls to my friends and doctors to support my claims. I was told by one good friend to use the "shotgun effect" when filing a claim with the VA; that is claim everything you can possibly think of and hope for the best. I filed for PTSD, Vivax Malaria, Agent Orange related Cancer, Hearing loss and Spondylolisthesis (bad back) with no supporting evidence what so ever.

I received a form letter thanking me for applying for VA benefits and informing me that claims like this usually take 12 - 18 months to complete. About a month later I received another letter explaining the process and instructing me to again collect all supporting evidence and to forward it to the VA. By that time I had collected enough letters of support that I felt comfortable with my claim. I sent them in. Months went by, I heard nothing. Sometime around June I received instructions to report to the Phoenix VA Hospital for evaluation in August. I reported as ordered, had X-rays taken, hearing tests, a physical and an evaluation. About a month later I received another form letter informing that my case was under evaluation and that I should expect an answer in 6 - 8 months. I received another form letter in January telling me that I had the lowest priority and that if I had a Purple Heart that my priority would be raised.

Finally almost a year to the day that I originally filed, I received my evaluation. I was not awarded any compensation for Colon Cancer (I intend to fight this decision on behalf of Dennis Nye, Richie Burns and everybody else that has come down with this disease) or for loss of hearing in my right ear. How one can have hearing loss directly due to firefights in Vietnam in one ear and not the other is beyond me. I received no compensation for hearing loss in my left ear or for Vivax Malaria but it was acknowledged that they are both service connected. This means that if I should have problems with either in the future that the VA will take care of it. I was awarded compensation for PTSD, Tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and my back.

Continued on the next page;PTO



[Home](#)

[Our Wall](#)

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[News Update](#)

[Other Links](#)

[Concessions](#)

[Sua Sponte](#)

As I look back on the last year and my dealing with the VA I find:

- 1) My fears were unjustified regarding how I was going to be treated.
- 2) My fears about how long it would take were unjustified. A year may seem like a long time but it really went by quite quickly and seeing how many claims the VA processes, the length of time was both acceptable and understandable.
- 3) The VA bent over backwards to accommodate me.
- 4) All personnel I came in contact with treated me with nothing but dignity and respect.
- 5) A living person, not a voice machine, answered my questions.

Cancer Facts You Should Know:

"Under the authority granted by the Agent Orange Act of 1991, VA has determined that presumption of service connection based on exposure to herbicides used in Vietnam is not warranted for any conditions other than those for which VA has found a positive association between the condition and such exposure. VA has determined that a positive association exists between exposure to herbicides and the subsequent development of the following nine conditions: chloracne, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT), multiple myeloma, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, prostate cancer, and cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea. PCT, chloracne and acute and sub acute peripheral neuropathy are required to become manifest to a compensable degree within one year from last exposure, while respiratory cancers are required to become manifest within 30 years after last exposure."

I do not claim to be an expert on the VA or how they rate disabilities. I have learned that if you were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and have experienced nightmares, cold sweats, flashbacks or any other symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder you are entitled to a minimum of a 10% disability rating (approximately \$100 per month). If you suffer from tinnitus (ringing in the ears) you are entitled to a 10% disability rating. Your mom & dad can't file for you; neither can your wife; only you can file the paperwork and receive whatever you deserve for your service to our country. Yes, it is going to take some work on your part. Yes, you are going to have to have a physical and an evaluation at a local VA Hospital.

Yes, it is going to take about a year, but remember your benefits are retroactive to the date that you first file your claim. So what are you waiting for?

CRABS

“Piss Tube Accolades”

by Sua Sponte Staff

For those that are unaware of the term “piss tube”, please don’t associate this with something negative; our highest award ever given by our Association is the “Golden Piss Tube Award”. Given to outstanding services to our Association. So too, should be *Sua Sponte’s* Piss Tube Accolades go without notice!

Piss Tube Accolade # 1

Robert Simpson has been very instrumental for the successes of initiating contact with family members of our brothers who gave all. Case in point: Bob made contact with the Prudens; Company E 51st LRS; got a dialogue going; and guess what? A very successful story in making a Pruden Competition a success! All with the help, too, with Danny Jacks, Frank Svensson, and Tom & Sharon Robison, not to mention Jeff and Scott from E 51st!

Piss Tube Accolade # 2

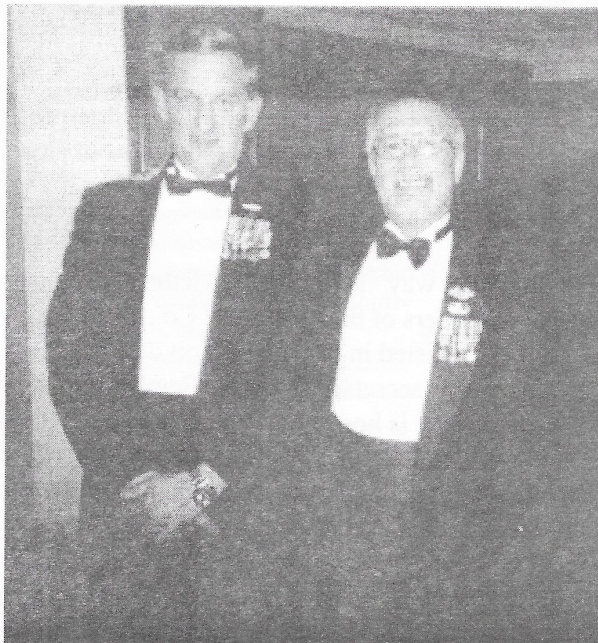
Larry & Sandy Pruden both need to be thanked for attending Robert Pruden’s (brother to Larry) Competition and sharing memories about “Prunes” with our Association and with the E-51st LRS that were in attendance in Germany.

Piss Tube Accolade # 3

Liz O’Dell who has contributed, with assistance from her husband and our brother Gerry, by giving our organization certificates of presentations to the E 51st and the Prudens, Larry & Sandy. Anyone needing the highest quality certificate, please contact Liz at 372 Horse Creek Road; Naoma, WV; 25140-9610

Piss Tube Accolade # 4

Justin Stay, webmaster for our Association, has done an outstanding job collaborating with members and creating, perhaps, the best website for any company that served in Vietnam! Justin, you have no doubt created something the envy of all other webmasters, thanks to the willingness of our members’ contributions of, among other things, articles and pictures.



Mark and Vic role modeling that LRRPs look good in a tux

Piss Tube Accolade # 5

Here’s a current photo of two of the first 10 LRRPs taken at a recent USO dinner in Washington, DC.

How often do you see former LRRPs or Rangers in tuxedos? Note that both are wearing their Silver Star.

To the left is Mark Brennan and to the right is Vic Valeriano.

These two guys were pretty much responsible for the “acquisition” of the basic materials the unit needed for the 196th LRRPs, parent company to our LRRP Ranger Association, that became operational in late 1966.

Piss Tube Accolade # 6

Without a doubt!

The soldiers serving their country; the members of the E 51st LRS; continuing a tradition that we are so proud of!

Sua Sponte

Company Business

Annual Membership Dues Renewal *optional*

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ email address _____ *optional*

Make check payable to: Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association

Remit \$20 Check of Money Order to: Frank Svensson
6964 Berkshire Avenue
Alta Loma, CA
91701

Profit & Loss Statement March 9, 2001

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Assets</u>
Dues 1999-2008 1,920.00	Account fee 80.00	Cash and Bank Accounts
Reunion 2000 3,086.00	Concession exp. 1,531.59	checking 11,270.09
Concessions 2,094.00	Postage 739.10	Total Assests 11,270.09
web page annual fee -200.00	Printing 1,249.12	Liabilities <u>0.00</u>
other incomes including inter- est on accounts; donations by members: <u>1,111.19</u>	Reunion 2000 1,362.03	Overall total 11,270.09
Total Income 8,011.19	Shipping concessions <u>413.88</u>	
	Total Expenses 5,375.72	

Any member who wants a complete listing of all transactions in more detail, please send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to Frank (address is above) and he will send it to you.

2001 Dues Renewal Letters in the Mail

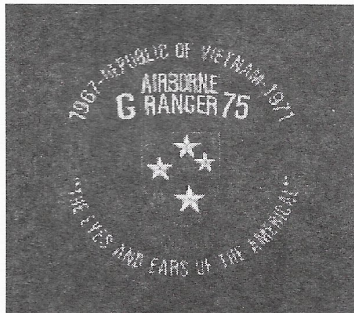
by Frank Svensson

The annual drive to renew association dues is currently under way. Dues renewal letters accompanied by a renewal form were recently sent to all former members of the 196th LRP Co., E/51st LRRPs, G/75th Rangers and the 196th Ranger platoon that are listed in the association data base. There were 348 forms and letters sent according to association secretary/treasurer Frank Svensson. Included in the packet is a self-addressed, stamped envelope. It is hoped that by including the SASE our members will be more likely to write a check and send it in. The annual dues remain \$20. If for some reason you did not get the renewal packet and wish to renew your membership, please use the renewal form (top of this page) that is printed in this issue of Sua Sponte. If you are interested in ordering anything from our concessions system, feel free to use the envelope for that purpose as well. The annual drive for members is an important aspect of our associations on-going success. Your dues money allows us to continue to publish and mail out Sua Sponte on a quarterly basis. Please take the time to send your check today!

CONCESSIONS

LRRP RANGER GEAR

Item # 1



\$25 for this quality polo shirt; 100% cotton with logo of "the eyes and ears of the Americal". S&H included!

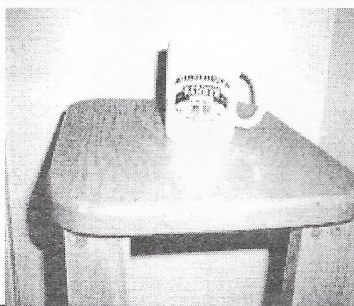
New Hats!

Baseball hats with the official logo on the front; including the Americal patch on one side of the hat and the "Burning Ropes", the 196th patch, on the other side.

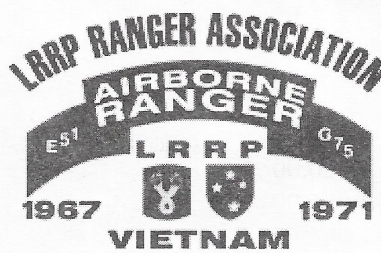
New hats for \$15 which includes shipping and handling; This will be a real popular item; limited stocks so hurry for this one.

Item # 2

Item # 3



New item: Company Coffee Mug to get your day started. Official logo; only \$7 includes; S&H



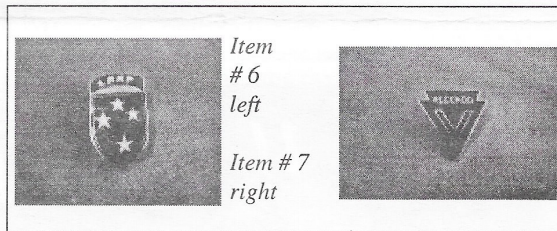
New official logo for t-shirts and sweat shirts. Includes S&H. \$20 for the tees and \$30 for the sweats. Colors are white to accent!

Item # 4

Item # 5



Breast or breastless (specify) coozie; neoprene with official logo. \$7



Item # 6 left

Item # 7 right

***Nonmembers please allow 3 weeks for shipping. Members, allow 10 days and a wakeup!**

Item #1 \$25.00 X amount ordered = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #2 \$15.00 X amount ordered = _____	One size fits all	Cost _____
Item #3 \$ 7.00 X amount ordered = _____		Cost _____
Item #4 \$30.00 X amount ordered Sweatshirt = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #4 \$20.00 X amount orderd Tee-Shirts= _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #5 \$ 7.00 X amount ordered = _____	breasted _____ breastless _____	Cost _____
Item #6 \$ 5.00 X amount ordered = _____		Cost _____
Item #7 \$ 5.00 X amount ordered = _____		Cost _____
Total Cost		_____

Make check or money order payable to: Company G (Ranger) 75th Inf. Assoc.

Name _____ Payment: check _____ money order _____

Street address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Send check to: Frank Svensson/Treasurer
6964 Berkshire Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Photo credit: Michael Chu



This group, attending a minin gathering in Hawaii, will be featured in the next issue of "Sua Sponte".

Sua Sponte

Sua Sponte

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56601

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