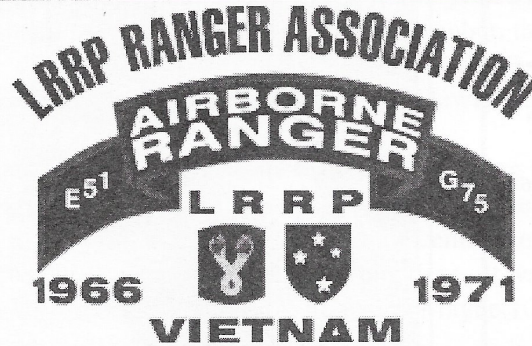


" of their own accord"

# Sua Sponte

San Diego  
2002  
Reunion



July 26th-29th  
2001  
Gathering in  
Gettysburg

2001 Summer Issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPS, and G-75th Rangers

## Sua Sponte Lineup

### Headliner ...

Successful Mini Reunion in Hawaii; a picture is worth a thousand words...page 1

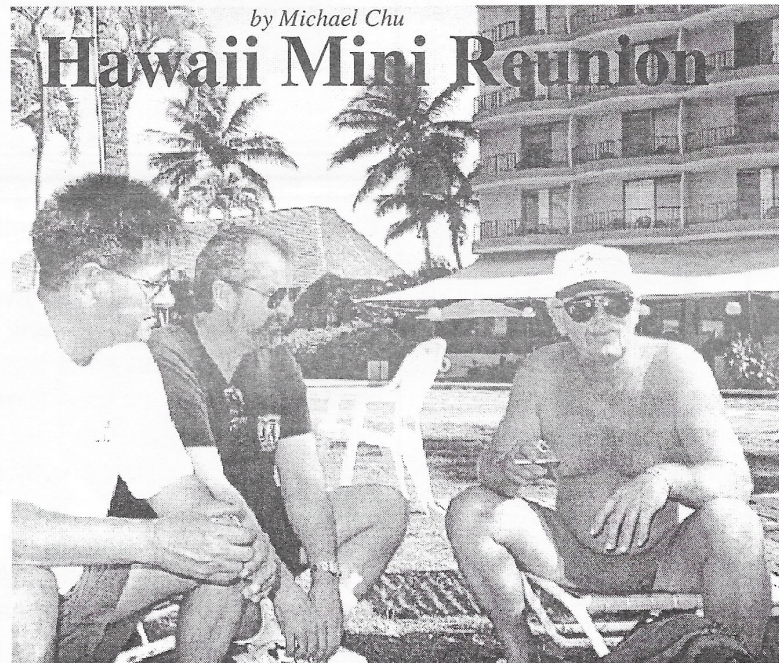
**President's Challenge...** Our President, Tom Nash, has suggestions for Sua Sponte... page 2

**Gettysburg...** Information that you can use for this year's gathering: itinerary ...page 6

**Tropic Lightning ...** Historical document from the 25th Division reveals an interesting LRRP mission...page 4

**Chairman Information ...** Updates about board openings, roster, reunion, Sua Sponte and Website ...page 9

**Next Issue...** Pictures of the Gettysburg Gathering with photos and stories...be there!



Chief, Crabtree, Wittingham at poolside, looking for lz's and planning the day

Steve Crabtree first mentioned a while back that he was planning on visiting my home State of Hawaii during the holiday season, Maui in particular. I tucked it in the back of my mind and didn't give it much further thought. When I heard he encountered his bout with cancer I remembered his plans and wrote back a reminder that we had a date for December 2000, but fully realized he had much more pressing matters at hand. I figured he would abort his plans.

*Feature Article continued on page 3*

by Tom Nash

# Sua Sponte

\*\*\*\*\*  
COMPANY G (RANGER)  
75th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION  
6964 BERKSHIRE AVE.  
ALTA LOMA CA. 91701  
PH: 909/989-8461 FX: 909/ 989/8461

\*\*\*\*\*  
SUA SPONTE  
10433 JUNE BERRY RD NW  
BEMIDJI, MN. 56601  
PH: 218/ 759-1439  
<http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte>  
\*\*\*\*\*

- President  
Tom Nash
- Vice-President  
Earl Toomey
- Secretary-Treasurer  
Frank Svensson
- Board of Directors  
Steve "Tower" Johnson, Chairman  
Steve Andrews  
"Doc" Bronson  
Dennis "Snaggle Puss" Nye  
Keith Oney  
Robert Simpson  
Dave Travis  
Charles "Wolf" Williams
- Historian  
Dave Travis
- 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. Any address changes should be forwarded to Stephen "Crabs" Crabtree; ranger@cablaz.com or 2255 N Azurite St, Mesa, AZ 85207.

**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.



T  
O  
M  
  
N  
A  
S  
H

Every three months or so, I get a phone call from Steve Johnson about putting something together for the next issue of *Sua Sponte*. If I'm lucky, I'll get three weeks, but usually there's an impending deadline of a week, maybe two at the outside, to put something together. This led me to think about how *Sua Sponte* is really underutilized by you – the Members. *Sua Sponte* serves a number of purposes. It allows those you've selected to administer the Association from year to year, to keep you abreast of information about the Association, chiefly information about our reunions and get-togethers.

But there's another reason for its existence. *Sua Sponte* belongs to you – it's your newsletter! And you should think of it as a place to exchange or to post information relevant to the other Members of the Association. Stories of past times with the unit can be included. How about remembrances of friends, or photos of the unit? There's the usually popular letters to the editor? Has anyone, for example, read the new book "Our Vietnam" by A. J. Langguth? Is it worth reading? Anyone care to comment on the performance of the Chief of Staff? How about a commentary on Bob Kerrey's recent disclosure? Have any of you gotten together for a mini-reunion recently? If so, tell us about it. Any news from the Department of Veterans Affairs? Anything on health issues? The point is that Sua Sponte can be a much more valuable resource than it is. But it has to be used.

## Hawaii Feature

*Continued from page 1, by Michael Chu*

Lost in the daily routine of life Yetta and I briefly emerged in the Spring of 2000 and undertook a quick vacation to Napa Valley in California. We hooked up with my old team leader David Moncada for a day of wine romping and dinner at his place the following day where we called Crabs to check in on his condition. It was there at the dinner table that Dave surprised his wife Megan with a seat of the pants announcement that if Crabs made it to Hawaii in December, the Moncada's would too.

So that is the background on how the winter Reunion 2000 in Hawaii occurred.

Comfortably nestled into the Maui landscape is another former Ranger, Chris Wittingham. A teammate of Crabs, Wittingham has done incredibly well in localizing himself into the Maui and Lahaina culture. Chris played host to the Winter Reunion and was the center piece and hero of one of the 'most relaxing and enjoyable days' I can remember in a long time. It was absolutely great seeing and hanging out the Crabtrees, the Moncadas and Witt again. Maybe 10% talk about Ranger stuff, 90% enjoyment of the company. We love you guy!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, I apologize for taking up so much space.

Aloha From All of Us

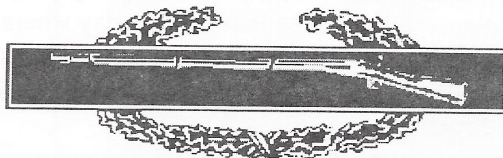
The Crabs', The Moncadas' The Chus' and Wittingham



*Yetta Chu & Megan Moncada relaxing at poolside*

*More pictures on page 5.*

# TROPIC LIGHTNING



*Ready To Strike....Anywhere, Anytime*

Volume 2, No. 11

Tropic Lightning News

March 20, 1967

## LRRP, CIDG Hammer at Nui Ba Den

The 196th Lt. Inf. Bde.'s Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) began an ambitious operation on Nui Ba Den Mountain, the "Black Virgin" that dominates the terrain of Tay Ninh Province like a rock pile set on a pool table. The mountain has been the home of the Viet Cong units since the first days of war. Its many natural and man-made tunnels under the granite blocks that stud the mountainside make it a natural fortification that is almost impregnable to artillery fire and air strikes.

Some of the tunnels are thought to be more like huge caverns, possibly housing whole battalions or regiments of Viet Cong as the pass through the province, with hospitals and arms repair factories hidden deep in the bowels of the mountain.

One tunnel suspected of being a major hideout and storage area for the Cong was recently probed by the LRRP and a Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) reconnaissance platoon, operating as tunnel rats in four-man teams, with two men from each group working together underground.

After clawing their way up the steep side of the Black Virgin, the LRRP, the CEDG platoon, and two security platoons for the 196th Bde.'s Co. A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., moved through the bazaar at the Buddhist pagodas, about half-way up the mountain, and then on about 35 meters beyond. A United States Special Forces "A" team had previously spotted what they believed to be a large complex at this spot, and it wasn't long before the first of the search teams had entered a minute opening under a huge bolder, into a

small underground room with many exits. Going deeper into the mountain side, the search teams were intrigued by arrows painted on the tunnel walls, apparently used by the Viet Cong as road signs. Many large sleeping rooms were discovered, all showing signs of use. But on the third day, the 300-meter tunnel came to a dead end, about 10-meters above the spot where the men had originally entered.

Undaunted, the LRRP and CIDG platoons immediately searched another tunnel, which had been discovered a little further up the mountain. Accompanied by tunnel rats from Co. A's security platoons, the search teams moved cautiously into the second hole and discovered documents, clothing, cooking utensils, and small amounts of recently cooked rice and beans. However, this tunnel also proved to be a dead end and the men descended the mountain to join other units in Operation "Junction City".

There are literally hundreds of tunnels used by the Viet Cong on Nui Ba Den, and probably not all will ever be destroyed. But if they can be discovered, charted, searched and mapped intermittent harassing fire by the artillery, at the entrances to the holes, can make them too dangerous for the VC to use.

Repeated "raids" on selected complexes, by units such as the LRRP and CIDG, will finish whatever usefulness they might have retained.

*Editor's note: There were many references to the "Black Virgin Mountain" by Tom Nash's article on "Rucksack 2000" on our feature articles on [www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte](http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte)*

Hawaiin Feature Photos



*Crabtrees, Wittingham and Yetta on Kaanapali Beach*



*Megan and Becca Moncada testing the waters at Kaanapali Beach*

# | Itinerary |

## Gettysburg Schedule

### July 26, 2001

1200-1900 hrs

1200-2400 hrs

### July 27, 2001

0800-1200 hrs

0930-1230 hrs

1200-1900 hrs

1200-2400 hrs

1300-1800 hrs

1300-2400 hrs

1900-2200 hrs

2100 hrs

### July 28, 2001

0930 hrs

1000-1130 hrs

1200-1300 hrs

1300-1700 hrs

1800-1900 hrs

1900-2100 hrs

2100-ZZZZhrs

2400 hrs

### July 29, 2001

0930 hrs

1100-1700 hrs

1900 hrs

### July 30, 2001

0900 hrs

### Thursday

Registration 196th Advance Party Arrival

Advance LRRP/Ranger Association arrivals meeting in the lobby

Hospitality room opens with the 196th in the Grant/McClellan Room

### Friday

Golf scramble with location TBA

Tours depart from the lobby (**Sold Out**)

Registration in hotel lobby

Hospitality room in the Grant/McClellan Room with the 196th

Registration LRRP/Ranger Association in Hospitality Suite

LRRP Ranger Hospitality Room Open at Eisenhower

War stories and cocktails

Reunion Auction. This pays the bills for the Hospitality Room & Food

### Saturday

Formation for pictures in the hotel lobby

Membership meeting with location TBA

Memorial Ceremony at Gettysburg National Cemetery

Site-seeing and free time

Cocktail hour (cash bar) 196th. Location Longstreet/Sheridan Room

196th Dinner with guest speaker in the Longstreet/Sheridan Room

Music & Dancing with DJ "Doc" Mosher

Hospitality Room closes

### Sunday

196th checks out; breakfast get together with LRRP/Rangers

Site seeing

Dinner at area restaurants; pay as you go

### Monday

Check out

- \* The 26th of July is an early arrival, optional day
- \* The 27th we will have the auction, a pay-as-you-go bar and snacks provided by association
- \* The 28th members wishing to attend the 196th banquet can; it is open to us
- \* All restaurant outings are pay-as-you go
- \* All activities are casual dress
- \* Hospitality will be furnished by our Association on the 27th; We are guests of the 196th on the 26th and the 28th.
- \* Remember, the auction items help to pay the bills for the hospitality room

## 196th Invitation

Letter addressed to 196th Officers

by Tom Nash

To: Bill Knight, President, [BillKDianne@aol.com](mailto:BillKDianne@aol.com)  
Warren Neill, Vice President, [neill@indy.net](mailto:neill@indy.net)  
Ken Wright, Treasurer, [SgtKew@psci.net](mailto:SgtKew@psci.net)  
Eddie Zahn, Secretary  
196<sup>th</sup> LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

From: Association Board  
Tom Nash, President  
Steve Johnson, Chairman,  
Earl Toomey, Reunion Coordinator  
E51 G75 LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION



As you know, our Association – the E51 G75 LRRP/Ranger Association is holding its annual reunion in conjunction with the reunion of the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association at Gettysburg this coming July. Our group holds annual reunions: separately in even numbered years, and in conjunction with a unit with which we were affiliated in odd numbered years. To hold our reunion with the 196<sup>th</sup> is an important event for us, given that our unit was originally formed in the 196<sup>th</sup>. As you may be aware, our unit was initiated in late 1966 as the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (“LRRP”) Detachment, attached to F Troop, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. After the 196<sup>th</sup> was made part of Task Force Oregon and the Americal Division, our unit was redesignated E Company, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry, (LRP). Eventually the unit was again redesignated, this time as G Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.

In any event, as part of our reunion, we have at least one event at which all of our members can get together, usually a buffet and an auction. At Gettysburg, we have scheduled a room for the evening of Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> for our get-together. And, on behalf of the Officers, Board and Members of the E51 G75 LRRP/Ranger Association, we’d like to invite you and the other Officers of the 196<sup>th</sup> LIB Association to join us at our function, if not for the entire evening, at least for a few moments, to participate in our auction, and to say hello.

We look forward to seeing you!

Tom Nash

*Editor's note: the auction will take place at the Eisenhower Inn on Friday night, 27 July, 7:00 p.m. See itinerary on prior page (page 6).*



[Home](#)

[Our Wall](#)

[Officers](#)

[Historical Photos](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[News Update](#)

[Other Links](#)

[Concessions](#)

[Sua Sponte](#)

Our website, thanks to you and our webmaster, Justin Stay, is growing in popularity and has potential for posting information of all sorts: pictures, messages, company matters, etc. Here are some examples of messages on the *messages* ribbon on our web bar:

### Sua Sponte Guest Book Message Board

Name: Clifford L. Price

Date: 6/27/01

Site Found By: By Accident

Email: seeprice@aol.com

Message:

Looking for pictures of friends. E-51 1967/68, G Co(Rangers) 1969/70. My code name is Rosey. I think of the past often and remember your faces. Help me fill my photo album. Willing to send you copies of my pictures.

Name: Eric L. Edwards

Date: 24 June 2001

Site Found By: Referred by Bruce E. Davey, 75th Rangers, Americal

Email: PhuLoc6@aol.com

Message:

I am a Viet Nam Veteran, 1st Cavalry Division (AirMobile), Northern I Corps 1968. Just checking out your website after being referred by one of your own, Bruce E. Davey of Kasota, MN. Congrats on nice website and, Welcome Home.

Eric L. Edwards

Treasurer, 1st Cavalry Division Assn,  
Air Assault - Sky Troopers Chapter, Phoenix, AZ.

Name: Brian M. Alvey

Date: 21 JUN 01

Site Found By: SURFING

Email: balvey@ars.com

Message:

Nice site! I'm a member of team 2 of the 151st Infantry Det. (LRS)

HooAh!

Brian M. Alvey

# Chairman's Report

by Stephen "Tower" Johnson

There are a number of things that are happening within our association that need to be addressed:

## **Boardmembers**

We need nominations for boardmembers: Doc Bronson, Dennis Nye, Chuck Williams, and Steve Johnson's positions will be up for election this year. Steve Andrews, Keith Oney, Dave Travis, and Robert Simpson have one more year to serve as boardmembers. Also, Earl Toomey has resigned his position as vice-president. For those boardmembers that are up for nomination this year and would like to run again and for those dues-paying members that would like to volunteer for board positions, please let our secretary, Frank Svensson, know. His address is on page 11 or e-mail him at [FSvensson@compuserve.com](mailto:FSvensson@compuserve.com).

## **Rosters**

IF YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE please contact Steve "Crabs" Crabtree who is updating the roster list and will be sending it to dues paying members. His address is 2255 N Azurite St., Mesa, AZ 85207 or e-mail him at [ranger@cableaz.com](mailto:ranger@cableaz.com). Secondly, there is discussion about what we should do for those who have served in our unit, but are not current paid members, that would like to have a copy of the roster. There may be two approaches to this and it remains undecided at this time. Perhaps a \$3.00 cost to cover printing and postage or no roster to non-paying dues members. Everyone agrees, that at no time, would a person be given a roster, if he did not serve in our association.

Also, there is current discussion about the impact of privacy in posting these addresses on the website with a "secret" access code for dues paying members. All of these items will be decided at our business meeting in Gettysburg. Should you have any suggestions about these items, please contact a board member or officer.

## **Concessions**

Frank Svensson is currently working on adding newer items to our LRRP gear, including new shirts for the Gettysburg Gathering. If you have new ideas for concessions, please contact Frank.

## **Reunion**

Steve Crabtree is heading up next year's reunion and it looks like San Diego may be the place. We should have a time and exact spot for the insertion of our next reunion soon. This year's get together is a "hitchhike" with another organization (196th this year) and we have our own reunion in 2002 on the west coast, tentatively in San Diego!

## **Sua Sponte**

*Sua Sponte* has been written here in the northwoods of Minnesota for some time now, previous to that in Hawaii with Mike Chu, with it's origin in Bemidji, MN. Should anyone be willing to take over this position, let me know and I would help make a smooth transition. I have and use Adobe Pagemaker and would give this to the person(s) responsible for publication. If you are interested, please contact me at: [ssponte@paulbunyan.net](mailto:ssponte@paulbunyan.net) or 10433 Juneberry Rd NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

## **Website**

Justin Stay, our webmaster, is most anxious to work with us in expanding and improving the content within our site ([www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte](http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte)). If someone were to take over the publication of *Sua Sponte*, (our newsletter) it would give me more of an opportunity to work with and facilitate our website. When we are gone, it would be nice to leave a legacy of "who we are and who we were" with information on the website that could be shared by generations to come. This could become a historical link to the past!

Sua Sponte!

## LRRP Stuff

### Annual Membership Dues Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

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

Remit \$20 Check or Money Order to:

Frank Svensson  
6964 Berkshire Avenue  
Alta Loma, CA  
91701



This is the Black Virgin Mountain from the article that the 25th Inf. shares info of our LRRPs.



If you are coming to Gettysburg, please remember to bring your coffee cup for the "effects" from the night before.

Do you remember drinking hot cans of beer in Nam? Especially Schlitz and Hamms Beer!

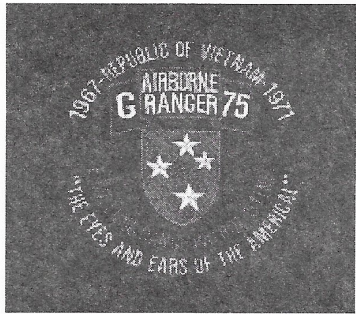
Wouldn't it be nice for old times sake to check around for some old Schlitz. This might be a prized item at our auction in Gettysburg. Be sure to include the toilet paper after drinking one of those!

Bring your cups for early java!

# 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!

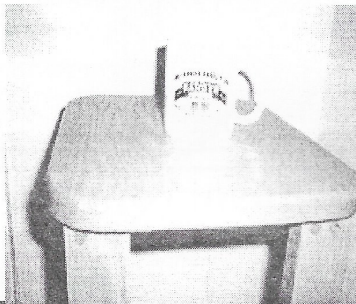
### New Hats!

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.

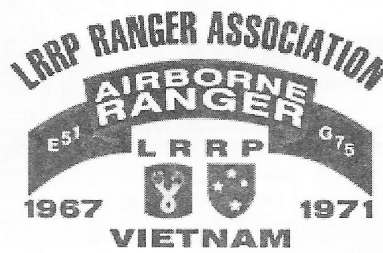
New hats for \$15 which includes shipping and handling; This will be a real popular item; limited stocks so hurry for this one.

Item # 2

Item # 3



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



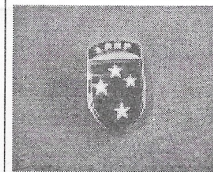
New official logo for t-shirts and sweat shirts. Includes S&H. \$20 for the tees and \$30 for the sweats. Colors are white to accent!

Item # 4

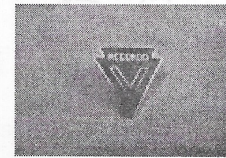
Item # 5



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 ordered 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.

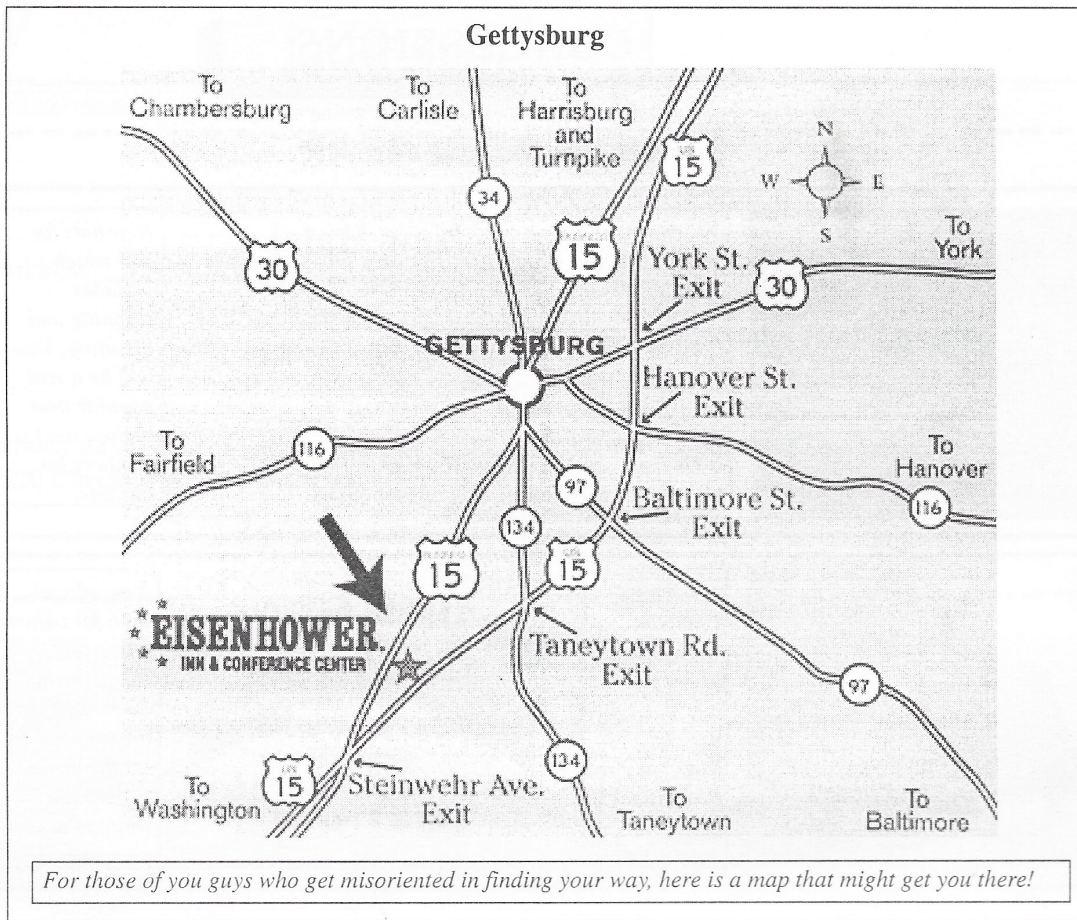
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Payment: check \_\_\_\_\_ money order \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Sua Sponte

## Sua Sponte

10433 Juneberry Rd NW

Bemidji, Mn

56601

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Bemidji, MN  
56601  
Permit Number  
124

