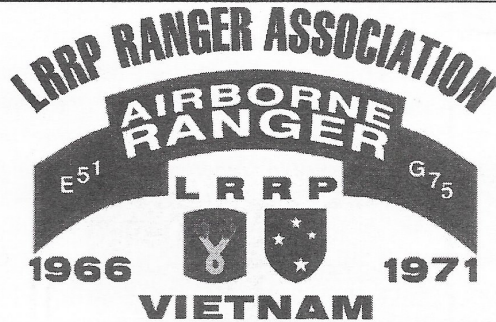


" of their own accord "

Sua Sponte



Reunion
2004
Seattle

Reunion
2004
Seattle

2003 Fall Issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPS, and G-75th Rangers

Sua Sponte Lineup

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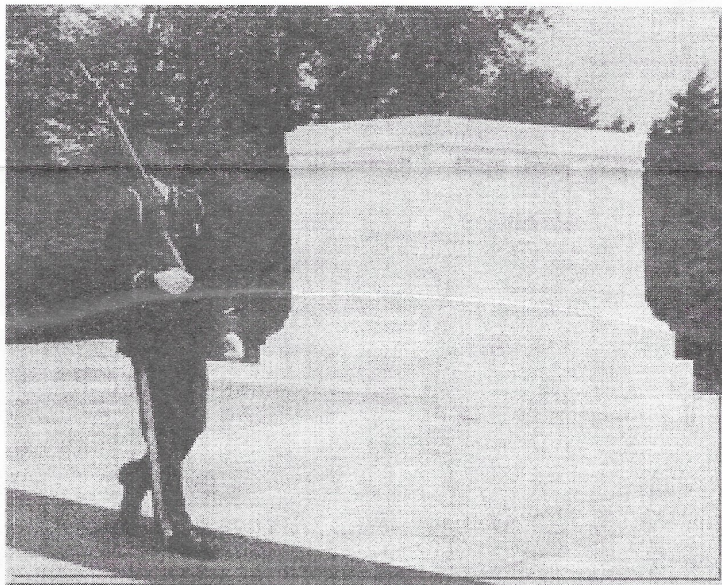
Airborne Ranger Buddies...

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email forwarded by Stephen Crabtree

I don't know if you saw this in the news but it really impressed me. Funny, our US Senate/House took 2 days off as they couldn't work.

On the ABC evening news, it was reported tonight that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabelle approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They refused. "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve!

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. Any address changes should be forwarded to Stephen "Crabs" Crabtree; ranger@cablez.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.

President's Report by Tom Nash

Information and Volunteers Needed

This note is about a couple of odds and ends that will help us make sure that the Association is operating as efficiently and effectively as is possible, as well as making the optimal use of our resources. In addition, we periodically have to look at what it is we're doing, and whether or not we need to upgrade, revise, or otherwise change our procedures, or undertake new initiatives.

Mini-Reunions - Jerry Howard recently had a mini-reunion at his place in Enumclaw, Washington, and, by all accounts, it turned out to be a great time. Danny Jacks and Jerry Schuster have since announced that they will host a Branson, Missouri mini-reunion from Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2. And this promises to be another great event – see information elsewhere in this issue.

Mini-reunions are encouraged, and provide an opportunity for our Members around the country, who might not otherwise be able to make it to our official reunions, to get together with their comrades and teammates. We hope to post notices in both Sua Sponte and on the Association's website about any mini-reunion about which we are notified. To be effective in reaching the maximum number of our Members, it would be helpful, if you are going to sponsor a mini-reunion, were you to let us know as soon as you have made the decision to do so, even if you have not finalized the details. We will make an effort to get a first notice out by email, and follow-up with a notice on the first page of the website, as well as in Sua Sponte. Keep in mind however that Sua Sponte is a quarterly publication, and that we'll need a fair amount of lead time in order to ensure that we'll be able to run the notice in Sua Sponte before the mini-reunion happens. And of course, remember that we'll eventually need photos of the gathering for the website.

Email Addresses and Postal Addresses – It's pretty clear that we have not kept our membership address database up to date with our Members' email addresses. Most of you have adapted to the internet just as the general population has done. But we do not have all of your email addresses in our database. There are times when it would be helpful and efficient were the Association able to quickly contact you (or many of you) by email, to alert you to upcoming mini-reunions, as just one example. As a result, please, if you have not already done so, supply us with your email address. Send it to me at tnash@lrrpranger.org or Jerry Schuster at e51lrrp@yahoo.com

Tom Nash

In addition, every new issue of Sua Sponte that is mailed to Members will inevitably produce a couple of post office returns because the intended recipient has moved. So please accept this reminder that if you move, or if you plan to move, don't forget to let us know so that you continue to receive your copies of Sua Sponte. Also, again, remember that Sua Sponte is a quarterly publication, so if more than 4 or 5 months pass without receiving your copy of Sua Sponte, you should check in with us to ensure that the mailing address we have for you is current.

"OUR WALL" Families – *Jerry Schuster has taken on the project of maintaining our membership address data base and upgrading it with email addresses from as many of our Members as is possible (see above), as well as making an effort to locate (or relocate) all those Members with whom we have lost contact or whom we have never been able to locate. But in addition, and equally important, Jerry will take steps to ensure that we do our best to maintain contact with the families of those on "Our Wall" – our fallen comrades. In some cases, Members of the Association have maintained contact with the families of their fallen comrades. We'd like to capture this information in our database, unless, of course, the family does not want to maintain contact with us. So to this end, please contact Jerry at e51rrp@yahoo.com with any information that you can provide that will help us establish and maintain this contact with the families.*

Volunteers Needed – *As with any Association like ours, there is always more to be done than there are people to do those things. In a recent article in Newsweek, John McCain wrote an essay about rights and responsibilities. While the essay decried the failure of our political institutions to follow-through in their support of many public service initiatives and the patriotic fervor that swept the country after 9/11/01, he went on to suggest that at the individual level, when we recognize that we are part of something greater than our individual self-interest, we should offer our services to that greater good. Our Association is such a greater good, and it needs volunteers. At the moment, there are a number of important positions open to worthy volunteers.*

- 1) We need to nominate our Association's representative to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Our 75th unit rep position requires some small commitment of time, and the ability to write a couple of articles about our unit, our people, our history and our reunions, for the 75th's quarterly publication – "Patrolling." It also involves acting as liaison with the 75th on such matters as our Association's submissions for the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame, and perhaps attendance at an annual meeting of the 75th's Board.*
- 2) We need a concessionaire, i.e., someone to act in concert with the Association's Treasurer in keeping an inventory of our concession items, such as shirts, etc., and ensuring that those who have ordered something actually get what they ordered.*

Also, and I think this is very important, I'd like the Association to undertake an Oral History Project, and we need a coordinator and some other volunteers to work on it. The Library of Congress has initiated an oral history project, called the "Veterans History Project." The Library of Congress website says the following about the project:

President Update

“Motivated by the urgent need to collect the stories and experiences of war veterans while they are still among us, the U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project in October 2000. The legislation calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories, along with documents such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America’s war veterans and those who served in support of them during World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars.”

I believe that it’s worthy of our consideration and some effort on our part to ensure that our history and our story are recorded in an organized way, and this project gives us the opportunity to do just that. I would like to organize an effort to record our history as a unit, telling the story of the unit through the personal reminiscences of our members - our comrades and teammates - and their families. This is more than a one-person job and will no doubt take some time. If we do this as a unit, we assure that we honor our comrades and teammates and that our story has been recorded in an accurate way. Volunteers?

Who’s Serving and Where? – Elsewhere in this issue, you’ll find a brief update on the career of Brigadier General Mark Brennan, an original 196th LRRP, who continues to serve his country. We have other members of our unit and Association who continue to serve, notably Dave Moncada and J. R. McCulloch. And there may be others serving about whom we’ve not received any current information. If you know of any other veterans of our unit who are still serving, let us know. Or, if you would like to provide us with a brief write-up for inclusion in Sua Sponte, let us know that as well.

Elections – The officers and members of the Board of this Association serve at the pleasure of the Members. Each year, the terms of several members of the Board expire, and the officers are basically subject to annual renewal. Elections are held at every annual reunion or get-together. These elections provide an opportunity not only to influence the direction in which the Association is heading by voting new members to the Board, but also to step up and serve if you’ve the inclination. If you have an interest in representing your comrades by volunteering to serve the Association in an administrative capacity, let us know.

The Ring – I wanted to call your attention to the Association ring described elsewhere in this issue. I ordered one while at the San Antonio reunion, with the black onyx stone, and recently received it. And I can tell you that the black and white photos of it simply don’t do it justice. Take a look at the pictures of it on the website. It’s an impressive and powerful statement, and we’ve done our best in providing a wide range of pricing options. It’s worth a look and your consideration.

MEDICAL CHECK-UPS – WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A COMPLETE PHYSICAL? IF IT WAS MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, YOU’RE PLAYING RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH YOUR HEALTH. THERE’S NO END OF EXAMPLES IN THIS ASSOCIATION WHERE EARLY AND FREQUENT CHECK-UPS WOULD HAVE SPARED SOMEONE SEVERE ILLNESS AND PAIN, OR PERHAPS EVEN SPARED THEIR LIVES. IT’S TIME FOR A CHECK-UP!

TOM NASH

Airborne Ranger Buddies

by John "Gunner" Starnes



Photo submitted by John Starnes

July 1968 during LRRP training around the beach of Chu Lai, Vietnam, Rangers John Starnes (Gunner) and Steve Franklin (Bubbles), spoke of the chance to jump together from an airplane while in flight.

October 1996 Steve wanted to be Freefall qualified so he could jump as a civilian. By doing the training, he entered into the realm of Special Forces and Ranger Freefall High Altitude Low Opening HALO parachuting as well as jumping static line. The difference is a matter of ten to fifteen thousand feet when comparing the two.

Steve's training allowed him to jump with such elites as the British SAS, F51st (LRS), US Special Forces, Golden Knight members, German GSG 9, 82nd Airborne Parachute Team, US Sports Parachute Team, even a couple Rangers from 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalion going to the Special Forces Qualification Course. All these people were working to get enough jumps to receive their Military Freefall HALO jump wings. John is *old hat* to jumping, being HALO qualified while in SOD Team 7th Special Forces, he performed many static line jumps while serving as a Paratrooper in the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), assigned to the 82nd (Airborne) Division. Gunner and Bubbles, can be seen in the above photo with their teams. Both were lined up according to their sticks and jump positions in the air.

Gunner, is in a black jump suit, with his hands on his hips looking toward the airplane. Bubbles is in a white jump suit holding the yellow FFA jump helmet, next to Ellen, a female jumper in his stick. The Airplane climbed to 17,000 feet and the jumpers exit in three and four way sticks, Steve and John free fell for 62 seconds performing flips, turns, rolls, and dives; the exhilaration of moving at 170 miles an hour is *kick ass*. At 3,000 feet both men reached for the ripcord as they hurled faster to the ground. Looking at the altimeter, they are at 2,600 feet, gaining canopy control and checking for irregularities on the canopy. Satisfied all is well, both Rangers enjoy the ride. Start your decent and prepare to flare and hold, then land. Afterward, pack the chutes then head home for grub and beers. We had a great time, we both will treasure the memory for an entire life time. Airborne, All the way, Rangers, lead the way. Hooah!

Date Change

Operation Gathering of Eagles

Mission: To bring together past and present Ranger brothers and their extended families, paraplegic Rangers, wives and/or mothers and fathers of Ranger KIA's to be honored individually for sacrifices made to ensure the American way of life for their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and future generations.

On 20-March 2004 the SOUTHERN REGION of RICA will host what may be, with your participation, hopefully the most prodigious gathering of past and present Rangers ever assembled, possibly a thousand + not including family members and friends.

One can only envision a Ranger brotherhood with the WW-II Ranger Battalions including Merrill's Marauders, Airborne Rangers of the Korean War, LRRP Rangers of Viet Nam, with all past/present members of the 75th Ranger Regiment bonding this unique relationship and observance of their family's collective acknowledgement, with pride, their accomplishments, and sacrifices. I would guess even tough old Rangers or guests would not have a dry eye.

All Rangers and their families should recognize this "GATHERING OF EAGLES" will in all probability never be repeated insofar as the WW-II Rangers and Korean Airborne Rangers are all 70 to 80 years young and our ranks are thinning fast.

By meeting and mingling with Rangers, past and present, Ranger guests will glean a true lesson in living history. These Rangers are the brave warriors of lore. Books and songs have been written about them. Motion Pictures depicting their valor abound. We will all meet young Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment who served in Granada, Panama, Somalia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and currently Iraq.

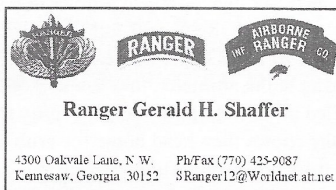
I encourage the following from every one of you: Help RICA transform Operation "GATHERING OF EAGLES" into the grandest Ranger victory possible, to honor our BROTHERHOOD. Please help jump start our momentum by communicating with me and every Ranger and Ranger family member possible and alert all that our Operation "GATHERING OF EAGLES" is AIRBORNE, the GREEN light is on and as of now scheduled to make DZ OCALA on 20-March 2004..

Location: Ocala Florida on a warm February day, near the famous tourist attraction of Silver Springs, numerous golf courses, and thoroughbred ranches. Information on Hotels/Motels, programs, etc. will follow as all the final blanks are filled in.

This operation will be a monumental undertaking. A successful event will require that we give 100% and then some. RICA is counting on all Rangers to commit to this mission and secure our objective. Remember the Ranger Creed: We never leave a wounded comrade on the field of battle, therefore HELP this old Ranger.

I ask you please disseminate this to all Rangers, and families that you know. I will follow up with future heads up memos and progress reports. I will circulate these throughout the entire Ranger neighborhood on a monthly basis thru January 2004.

Ranger Gerald H. Shaffer
President Southern RICA
4300 Oakvale Lane
Kennesaw, GA
Ph./ Fax 770-425-9087
Sranger12@worldnet.att.net



Bulletin Board

LRRP Ranger email addresses are available

You can now get the use of your email through the association's email service with an address of your name@lrrpranger.org by paying only \$20 per year. This is less than \$2 per month and the money made from this is used to support our website costs. So, send your \$20 check made out to:

COMPANY G (RANGER)
75th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
6964 Berkshire Ave.
Alta Loma Ca. 91701

With your check, please send your current email or mailing address so we can arrange for your personal email address through Justin Stay, our webmaster. In our next issue, we will have the names of those that have an elite name@lrrpranger.org.

Steve Johnson



If you have ever been to Iowa, maybe you have seen the *Field of Dreams*. If you are not into baseball, then maybe you are into rocks. When in Iowa, check this one out!

Bulletin Board

by Association Members

We are seeking Volunteers to please step forward fill these projected vacancies:

1. The quarterly publication / mailing of the *Sua Sponte*.
2. The quarterly writing of Article(s) for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Patrolling Magazine.

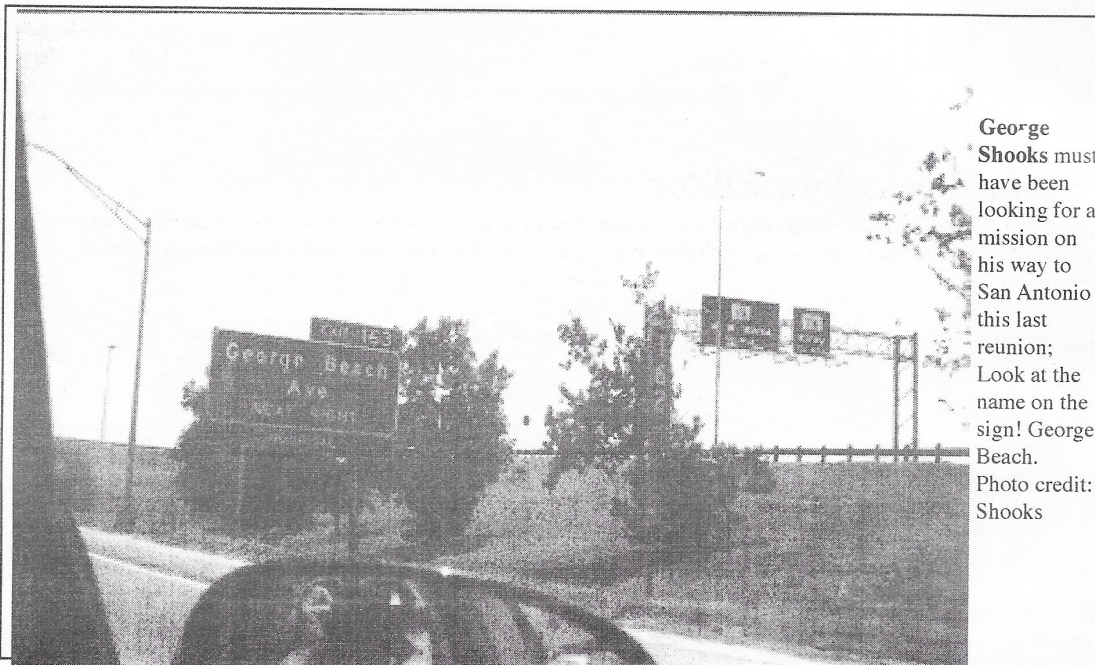
It has been pointed out that Steve Johnson has been publishing and mailing *Sua Sponte* for over 12 years. The same can be said for Steve Crabtree, representing our Association with the 75th Ranger Association for a long time. Both have served POINT and have successfully completed their MISSION(S)!!!!

Both of these guys, the Board and Officers of the Association, will be available to assist anyone who steps forward to relieve them at point, during this transition period. Those who are interested should contact Steve Johnson or Steve Crabtree respectively with any questions they may have about "VOLUNTEERING for the MISSION!!!!!!!"

Respectfully and Professionally yours,
Charles "Wolf" Williams

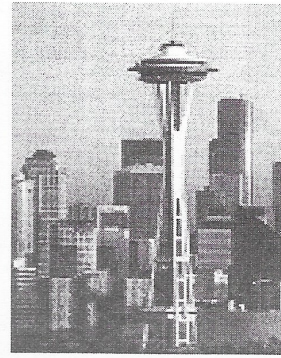
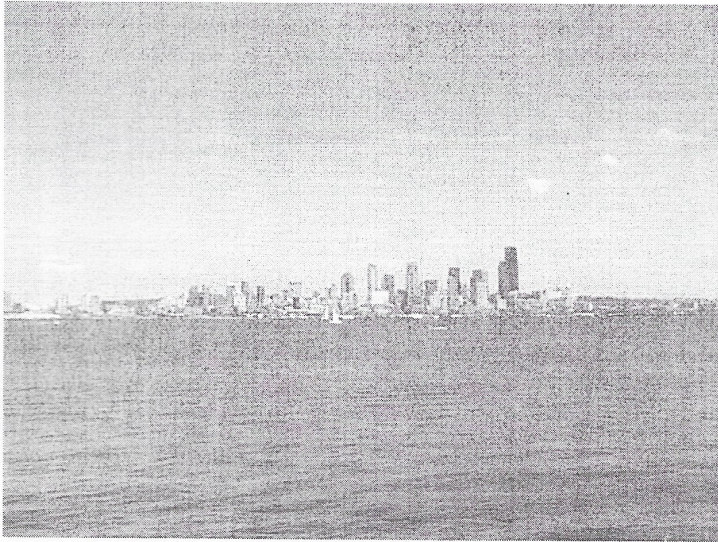
Tom Robison's military career from his own lips. You've got to publish! Sent by Stephen Crabtree

My military career began when I came ashore at Casablanca in Northern Africa with Gen. George Patton. We fought side by side through North Africa, then Sicily, Italy, France and finally Germany itself. When it was all over, the General and I stood on a high hill and as he looked down on all the allied armor spread out before him, he slowly turned and with moisture in his eyes he simply said, "Tanks". With a slight quiver of my lips I softly replied, "You're welcome!"



George Shooks must have been looking for a mission on his way to San Antonio this last reunion; Look at the name on the sign! George Beach.
Photo credit: Shooks

Seattle 2004 Reunion



Seattle is the host to our reunion for this next summer and promises to be a venture for our association members.

July 31st-August 4th

This is the tentative date for our reunion in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Association in or near Ft. Lewis, Washington. For a quick update, be sure and visit our website: www.lrrpranger.org and of course *Sua Sponte* which recently, has been coming in dead last for information. "Tower" is burned out and needs to be replaced by one who is willing to volunteer like we did in Nam (more to follow).

Sua Sponte has been informed that there is a contact person on the ground for hotel reservations as soon as the regiment firms the dates, but the speculated time frame is listed above. Top Williams can be thanked for the resource contacts in Seattle. Also, he has communicated our needs to Dan McGrath, president of the Ranger Regiment Association. Dan was very glad that we would be attending and is aware of our own personal identity, having our own AO.

Thanks to Top Williams and Jerry Howard volunteering, we should have a complete itinerary and hotel information in the winter issue of *Sua Sponte*. Please refer to our website on current information; Justin Stay, our webmaster, is always at the ready to post new stuff!

Sua Sponte Seeks New Editor

It's been over ten years since I have been doing the newsletter. And to be honest with you, I need to step down and let someone else take over the newsletter responsibilities to the organization. If you are interested, please contact me and I will help with a transition.

You would need the ability to use of the computer to create 12 pages of information (could be more, could be less).

Also, I mail *Sua Sponte* from Bemidji using our non-profit mailing. I could transfer this, too.
If you are the least bit interested, please contact me at:

ssponte@paulbunyan.net
218-759-1439

or
Stephen Johnson
10433 Juneberry Rd. NW
Bemidji, MN
56601

Ring Information

How To Order Your LRRP Ranger Ring

You can view this ring and get complete ordering information on our website at www.lrrpranger.org



For complete information on this ring, first hand, contact Sharon Robison. Her address is:

Sharon Robison

Kelleher Enterprises

2330 E. Stadium Blvd. Suite 4

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

or email sharon at:

srobison@kelleher-inc

If you want an order form, email, write, or call Sharon at 1-734-677-0944 extension 207 and a purchase form will be mailed to you.

Sua Sponte

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Veterans Day Vigil

