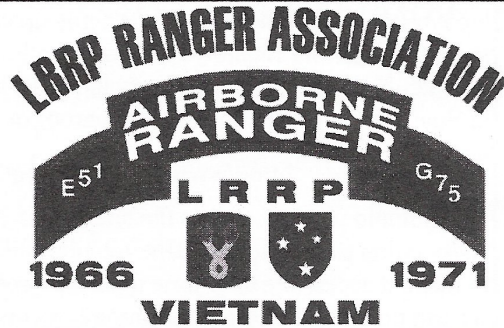


" of their own accord "

Sua Sponte



San Antonio
2003
June 26-29

San Antonio
2003
June 26-29

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

Sua Sponte Lineup

Feature ...

"Gunner" Starnes relives rb-7 training with guests ... page 3

President's Message... Tom Nash presents San Antonio as our next reunion site... page 2

San Antonio... The Association has, with Dave Travis' help, scored a great city with warm hearts...starts on page 1

Company News ... Why Michael Moore can shoot his mouth off...page 8

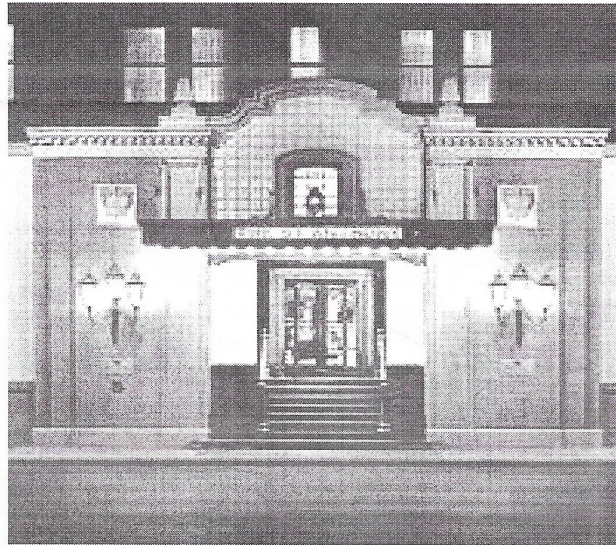
Gold Star Moms... Ft. Snelling is the site of awards for two Minnesota moms; one is Robert Prudens... page 6

Financial Report... Blue chip stock is down, but our account grows ...page 10

www.lrrpranger.org... Come and check out our website

San Antonio Reunion

by Sua Sponte Staff



St. Anthony Hotel

1-210-227-4392

This year's Association reunion at San Antonio includes a free Saturday night banquet meal to its members and their guests at the St. Anthony Hotel, adjacent to the famous Riverwalk, minutes away from a leisure stroll to the Alamo. The Association is having its memorial service at the Alamo. See the itinerary and other information in this issue of *Sua Sponte*.

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.

REUNION 2003 – SAN ANTONIO

Our Association's reunion for 2003 is set for San Antonio, Texas, in the shadow of the Alamo. The reunion will take place during the last weekend in June – from Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29. Dave Travis did the leg work touring San Antonio and came up with what appears to be an excellent choice for our reunion – the Saint Anthony Hotel – close by the Alamo and San Antonio's famous Riverwalk. (For those of you who are reading this in Sua Sponte, be sure to visit that part of our Association's web site dedicated to the reunion at

<http://www.lrrpranger.org/sanantonio.htm>

San Antonio was selected as the site of this year's reunion as part of our Association's effort to move the reunions and get-togethers around the country to make it accessible over time to as many of our Association's members as we can possibly do. And San Antonio seems to be a great choice, with a variety of attractions in addition to the Alamo and Riverwalk, including museums, old Spanish missions, and one of the largest zoos in the country. And this year, the reunion will sponsor and host a Mexican buffet on Saturday evening prior to the auction and usual last night festivities, free to dues paying members of the Association and their families. And our memorial service will take place on the grounds of the Alamo prior to its opening to the public on Sunday the 29th.

I've told this story before, but I think it bears retelling, even if I risk being accused of repeating myself. But its message is poignant and germane to us in a way. A few years ago, while watching the NBC nightly national news, just prior to the St. Louis reunion as I recall, Tom Brokaw reported that that year's reunion of Dunkirk survivors had been cancelled. It seems that the number of survivors had dwindled significantly, and many who were then still living were infirm or ill and could no longer make the trip. I've thought about this often since then. I think the message is clear – we should not squander the opportunities we have to get together with each other. And we have an opportunity in San Antonio.

I treasure our reunions. It's a regret I have that for 30 years, I had little or no contact with those with whom I served in Vietnam – a true loss. So, the opportunity to get together with my teammates and comrades from those long ago 196th LRRP days is an extraordinary gift. And, being able to meet and talk with those from other eras of our unit's history is a reward beyond that which most people can ever experience. And so, it's time for us to assemble once more – this time in San Antonio – to renew the bond, and to remember and honor those who are gone, whether while serving with us in Vietnam or those who left us along the way. But also we want to honor those members of our Association and unit, like Dave Moncada and Mark Brennan (and others who have not yet checked in), who continue to serve the Nation in the Army as our country is heading for war.

I hope to see many of you in San Antonio. Remember the Alamo!

Itinerary

**E51 G75 LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION
REUNION
SAINT ANTHONY HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
JUNE 26 THROUGH JUNE 29, 2003**

Thursday, June 26, 2003

1200-1800 Reunion Registration
1400-1800 Concessions
1800-2200 Concessions & Open Bar

Friday, June 27, 2003

0800-1000 Concessions & Reunion Registration
0800-1900 Free Time
1900-2400 Snacks, Open Bar, Concessions

Saturday, June 28, 2003

0800-0900 Concessions
0900-1000 Board Meeting
1000-1100 General Business Meeting
1100-1800 Free Time
1800-1930 Dinner of Mexican Food
1930-2400 Auction, Open Bar, Concessions

Sunday, June 29, 2003

0900-1000 Memorial Service at the Alamo

1-210-227-4392

Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29.

Saint Anthony Hotel - site of this year's reunion - is a 10-minute walk to the Alamo with the famous San Antonio River Walk within one block. For those that plan on driving, there is a \$12 charge on an outside parking lot; with \$17 for inside parking

Room rates are \$90 per night for two people; an additional \$10 per person after that with up to four people per room. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check out is 12:00 noon. For those that want a suite, cost is \$250.

You can make room reservations up to May 27. Reservations can be made by calling: 1-210-227-4392. Please make references to these special rates to the 75th or 51st military reunion.

"Rattlers in the Water"

by John "Gunner" Starnes

During a get together in Powhatan, Virginia; Rangers Ben Thomas "Sparrow", Steve Franklin "Bubbles", and John Starnes "Gunner", had settled down for the evening with beers, looking at old war pictures from their 1968-1969 scrapbooks when they were in Vietnam with the Company.

Gunner showed a picture of students in Recondo School carrying a rubber boat into the South China Sea at Chu Lai Beach. Both Ben and Steve didn't remember the rubber boats in the company. The boats were stored under the commo shack. The company had one RB-15 and four RB-7s as well as two stolen lifeguard surfboards and a couple of duece-and-a-half inner tubes.

Anyway, the POI for waterborne training was the same as Ranger School: one Coxswain at the aft shouting orders to the starboard and leeward sides paddling with oars. LBE, rucks, and weapons in the boats with the M-60 machine gun and machine gunner at the prone forward on the bulkhead. The M-60 was secured on a nylon rope and snap link. We were taught service and function, inflation-deflation, then rigging. We performed high carry and low carry, loading, capsizing drills, paddling and maneuvering, beaching, camouflage and storage.

The swim test was also incorporated into the training. This was done by ordering us to swim away from the boats for 25 meters (with boots on), and then return to the boats. Very few of us inserted by water using the rubber boats, perhaps due to the proven air insertion method of the helicopters and rope insertion including extraction, which was quicker and got everybody in and out of a hot AO.

The other insertion methods were vehicular, foot, and stay-behinds. These were used when the objectives were closer than the requirements of an air insertion. Insertion by parachute was left alone for obvious reasons. If you don't know why, ask the French 6th Colonial (Parachute) Battalion who jumped in Tu Le, Vietnam!

On a personal note (not to stray away too far from the subject), I remember what saltwater feels like on lower-back ruck burns. The Americal Recondo Instructors knew it would sting, but they also knew the saltwater would help heal our ruck burns and quarter size blisters on our feet. SP4 "Roach" Wolch captured rubber boat training on 8mm film as shown on the video "Who Were We." The film shows some of the LRRPs in the Company.

I recall SP4 "Muscles" Baldwin; one of the soldiers sitting on the RB-15 in preparation to paddle away on a heavy team mission. I also know that the RB-7 was used on one occasion to insert during the hours of darkness at the Batangan Peninsula, located some 10-12 miles down the beach. The team was, perhaps, "Team Lucky Strike" or "Pall Mall".

Continued on the next page, please

Rattlers Feature Article

Continued by John "Gunner" Starnes



Standing tall and proud. From left to right are: John "Gunner" Starnes, Ben Thomas, and Steve Franklin.

So, what does it matter now? Maybe not much, but for a special missions unit such as LRRPs, it is its history that speaks of its elite soldiers' deeds. More so, it depicts the Division's Long Range Patrol Company demonstration water insertion.

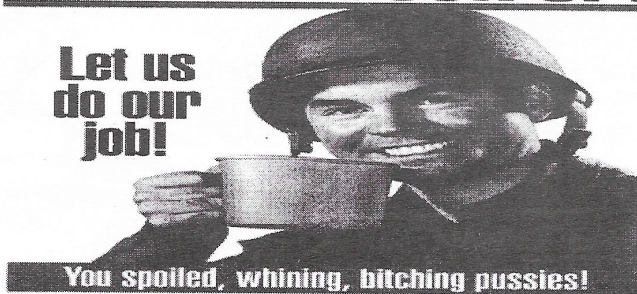
On another note, Sergeant Richard Lett was a qualified scuba diving instructor. We had the personnel and capability to train teams using that aspect of insertion should there be the need. Our ties with the USMC 1st (Force Reconnaissance) Company, who trained with us in January-February 1968, was located just north of us. They, too, would have helped with our scuba training for this kind of mission.

Today's Rangers of E Company (Long Range Surveillance) 51st Infantry (Airborne), continue this infiltration technique. As our aviation fly boys used to say, "Rattlers on the Ground. How copy, over?" Well, everybody knows all snakes swim. "Rattlers in the water, break-out."

**Hey Hollywood, sit down and pour yourselves
a nice cup of...**

SHUT THE FUCK UP!

**Let us
do our
job!**



You spoiled, whining, bitching pussies!

Sua Sponte apologizes for those that are offended by this type of graphic. However, we have received these and others which suggests that we should share these kinds of submitted materials. Rebuttals are welcome!

All Airborne Days

by Stephen "Tower" Johnson



Mrs. Pruden with Gold Star Award and her family surrounding her. The Prudens were proud to be there!

The Midwest All Airborne Alliance held their seventh annual gathering in the Twin Cities on August 16-17, 2002. The Alliance is made up of anyone who has jumped from a military airplane while in flight. What is so special about this annual is the Airborne Memorial Stones Dedication on Saturday, August 17 at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul. This group usually does only social gatherings and has no dues.

Two Minnesota Moms received Gold Stars as a special part of the Dedication. These special Moms each lost a son while serving in Vietnam. Both sons served in Airborne Ranger units as LRRPs. According to information provided by Angie Magruder, the Gold Star tradition began with President Wilson's suggestion that American women wear a black band on their upper left arm with a gold star. Each star would represent a family member who had given his or her life for their country. The Gold star tradition began in WW 1 and continues to this day. The headquarters are at American Gold Star Manor in Long Beach, California (for further information on this org., access www.goldstarmoms.com).

The Friday night event began with a gathering on the "Magnolia Blossom" paddle boat on the Mississippi River with a banjo band, lots of liquid refreshment, a superb meal, and shared glider and jump stories. (I have to admire these members for doing more than my five-military jumps). There were Silver Wings from many countries including Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, Israel, and France, to name a few. One special gentleman, Mr. Flatten, was packing not a chute on his back, but a hospital-provided IV food backpack. This he obtained before making his getaway from his hospital bed on this day so he could attend the festivities.

Gold Star Mom



From the left, Pam & Steve "Tower" Johnson, reps for our association, stand next to Robert Pruden's parents with Robert's former football coach to the far-right

His story about one Russian jump from a helicopter piloted by a "questionable Ruski crew", kind of reminded me of some of our Nam helo rides. Glad I had a designated driver after that boat trip!

On Saturday everyone gathered for the Airborne Memorial Stones Dedication. This major collaborative effort was started by Emmit and Sandy Rouse. Posting of the colors was lead by SSG John K. Weber, Chapter XV, 173rd Airborne. These guys were sharp!

The Gold Star Families led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Patrick Morgan gave the Invocation.

Emerson Gates, RICA, Chairman of the Midwest All Airborne Alliance welcomed us all and reflected on the importance of brotherhood (Airborne) as an equal regardless of what unit or country we served.

The main speaker, LTC John E Goetze, AUA (Ret), left us with a reminder: it's not the politician, poet, nor the college student organizer who fights for peace, but the soldier. The Soldier!

There were many such soldiers representing their Airborne Units' Unveiling: Tom Eckhoff -75th Rangers; Special Forces- Roger Albertson, Jerry Schroepfer; 187th Jerry Hunting; 11th- Jack Running; Korean Rangers- Emerson Gates; 101st- Brad Nichols; 82nd- Bud Ollum, John Anderson, Al Porter, Jim Flowers, John Hinchcliff; 173rd- Harry Persinger; 503rd- unknown; 17th- unknown (I apologize to the spelling and omission of names).

Each Airborne Unit had its flag permanently mounted on stone platform with a unit plaque that now makes up what is known as Airborne Circle. According to Robert McCollum, Director, Fort Snelling National Cemetery, this was the first collaboration of military groups to dedicate a monument in any national cemetery.

Company News

by Association Members

www.lrrpranger.org



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[Guest Book](#)

[Messages](#)

[Officers](#)

Name: Katherine Duke

Date: 02/14/03

Email: Katheduc43@aol.com

Looking for anyone who knew my father, SFC Domingo Morado, Co A 3/21, 196th LIB, KIA 5/13/69.

Please contact Katherine Duke at Katheduc43@aol.com.

Name: Howard M. (Marty) Kuykendall

Date: 01/14/03

Site Found By: Searching

Email: Marty_Kuykendall@msn.com

Message:

Found the site with no compass just kept looking. Just wanted to say hello to all the warriors from G Co Rangers. I kinda stay lost in my own world as there is no team like what we all had in Nam. I keep my back to the wall and it's getting very old. Would like to hear from some of you if you get the time to answer. If anyone sees Beach say hello. That goes for everyone but brother Beach was always out of touch and on the far edge of the map if you know what I mean. Wishing all of you the best and smooth thoughts. Pervert



JUST ONE OF THE MANY REASONS
MICHAEL MOORE HAS THE FREEDOM
TO MOUTH OFF AT THE OSCARS.

Gold Star Moms

by Stephen "Tower" Johnson



Mrs. Pruden is holding the Gold Star plaque on the left; Mrs. Brizius is to the right; in the back row, far right, is Dave Gowen; front right is Tom Eckhoff

The finale of the Ceremony was the presentation of the Gold Star Award to two Minnesota Moms.

Mrs. Pruden, Robert's mom, was awarded a plaque and Gold Star by Stephen Johnson, a former member of Company G 75th Rangers in Vietnam. Robert (CMH) gave his life on November 20th, 1969, when as a Team Leader, realizing that his team could be destroyed, charged into the face of death, and saved his men before he fell mortally wounded. "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This; That He Would Lay Down His Life For His Friend."

Mrs. Colleen Brizius, Raymond Reeves' mom, was awarded the second plaque and Gold Star by Dave Gowen, a former team member of Raymond's when he was killed by a burst of AK-47 fire while serving in Company N 75th Rangers in Vietnam, during November 1968. Dave was also wounded by the same burst of fire that fateful day. "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This; That He Would Lay Down His Life For His Friend."

We would personally like to thank the Midwest All Airborne Alliance, Gold Star Moms and family members, and all attendees who made this weekend a special one. Your hard efforts establishing the Airborne Memorial Stones for future generations to see will forever be honored.

Also, a special thanks to Tom Eckhoff and many of his friends who provided all of us with information that allowed us to find the right LZ and feel right at home.

Financial Report

by Frank Svensson

Balance Sheet

As of 3/28/03

3/28/03

Page 1

| Account | 3/28/03 Balance |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Cash and Bank Accounts | |
| Checking #2450-0587 | 23,607.82 |
| Cash | 0.00 |
| TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts | 23,607.82 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 23,607.82 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| LIABILITIES | |
| | 0.00 |
| EQUITY | |
| | 23,607.82 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 23,607.82 |

Income/Expense

1/1/03 Through 3/28/03

3/28/03

Page 1

| Category Description | 1/1/03- 1/31/03 | 2/1/03- 2/28/03 | 3/1/03- 3/28/03 | OVERALL TOTAL |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| 2002 REUNION | 735.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 735.00 |
| CONCESSIONS | 316.00 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 351.00 |
| DONATION-MEMBER | 0.00 | 160.00 | 0.00 | 160.00 |
| DUES | 60.00 | 1,664.00 | 80.00 | 1,804.00 |
| LIFETIME DUES ACCOUNT | 0.00 | 1,050.00 | 400.00 | 1,450.00 |
| LIFETIME- FRIEND | 0.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,111.00 | 3,209.00 | 480.00 | 4,800.00 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 1,111.00 | 3,209.00 | 480.00 | 4,800.00 |

Florida Gathering



At a recent gathering at Earl's, left to right, are: Earl Toomey, Dave McLaughlin, Cecil Crosby, and Doc Bronson

LRRP RANGER GEAR

Orders can be sent to Frank Svensson: 6964 Berkshire Ave.; Alta Loma, CA; 91701

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--|------------|
| Item #MO1 | Unit Video | \$20.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #PO1 | Golf Shirts | \$25.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #2 | Denim Shirt | \$35.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #HO1 | Baseball Hat | \$15.00 X amount ordered = _____ One size fits all | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO2 | Coozies | \$ 7.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO3 | Coozies | \$ 7.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO4 | Bumper Sticker | \$ 3.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO5 | MACV Pin | \$ 5.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO6 | LRP Pin | \$ 5.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO7 | Coffee Cup | \$ 9.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #MO8 | E/51 Buckle | \$15.00 X amount ordered = _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #SO1 | Sweat Shirt | \$30.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T50 | Unit t-shirt | \$20.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T97 | 1997 t-shirt | \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T98 | 1998 t-shirt | \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T99 | 1999 t-shirt | \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T00 | 2000 t-shirt | \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Item #T01 | 2001 t-shirt | \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____ Size(s) _____ | Cost _____ |
| Total Cost | | | _____ |

Sua Sponte

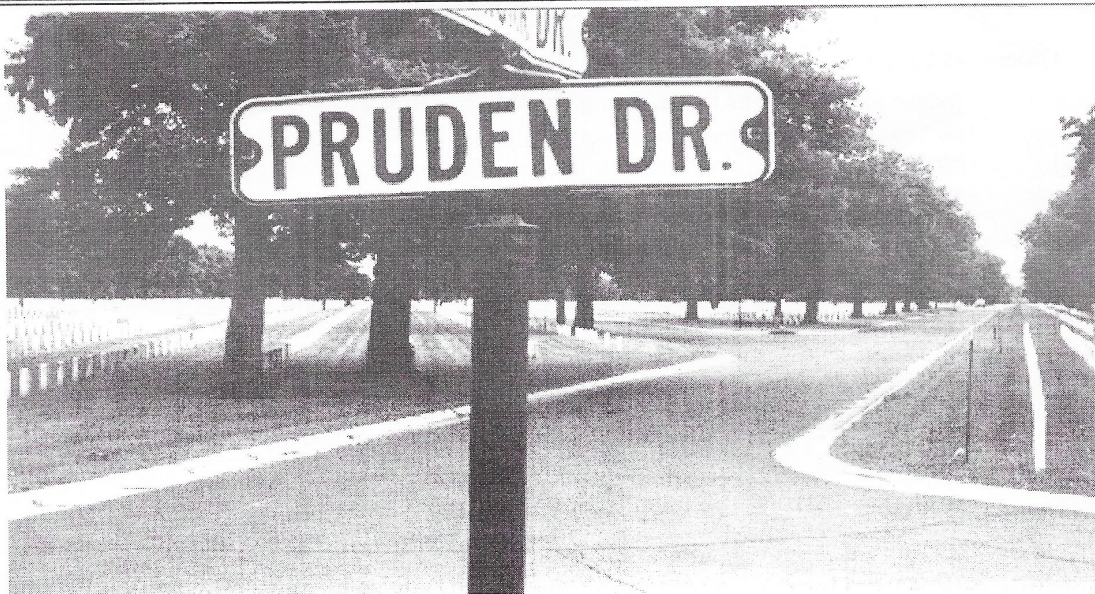
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Bemidji, MN

56601

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Bemidji, MN
56601
Permit Number
124



There is a street in St. Paul named in honor of Robert Pruden, our 'brother' who gave all!