



# Sua Sponte

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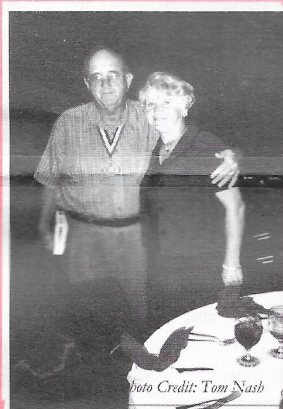
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### Hall of Fame Induction

*Danny and Tom... Congratulations*



*Photo Credit: Tom Nash*  
Danny and Marvel Jacks

It is with great pride that is felt throughout the unit that "Congratulations" are extended to Tom Robison and Danny Jacks upon their induction to the Ranger Hall of Fame.

For the full story, turn to **pg. 4** for a complete account written by Tom Nash.



*Photo Credit: Tom Nash*  
Tom and Sharon Robison

### Reunion 2005 ~Fort Myers

*How Great It Was!*

Fort Myers weather cooperated and was great... lots of sunshine . We've added lots of pics for everyone who would have loved to be there and for everyone who was there to be able to relive the fun!

See **pg. 10**  
for the full scoop and  
article !



*Photo Credit: Sua Sponte Staff*  
Jojo Corkan, John Haines, Richard Corkan, and A.J. Pack  
"How Great it Was!"

Quarterly Newsletter of The 196th LRRPs, E51st LRP, and G-75th Rangers

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**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 handwritten, typed or on computer disk. We can translate most files. Windows 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 Sherman, TX.

**President's Column**



Tom Nash

**The US Army Ranger Hall of Fame - How does it work, and what does it mean for our Association?**

Jerry Schuster recently sent me several copies of old issues of *Sua Sponte* that predated my becoming aware that there was an Association representing the 196th LIB LRRP unit in which I served. Reading these old editions of our newsletter has given me a better understanding and awareness of the history of the Association, at least some of it. I read with great interest, for example, that shortly after the Association was founded, General Colin Powell wrote the Association a letter congratulating it on its formation, a letter in which he referred to our unit as "one of the most highly decorated units in Vietnam." It seems fitting then, that just as the unit has been honored and recognized, so too are the members of our Association doing their part to recognize and honor their comrades by actively working toward the induction of the unit's deserving members to the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame ("RHOF").

With the recent induction (covered elsewhere) of Danny Jacks and Tom Robison of our unit to the RHOF, joining our unit's former inductees Robert Pruden (1992) and Vic Valeriano (2002), it seemed like the appropriate time to stop for a moment and review how election to the RHOF comes about, and to focus on the important role played by the members of our Association in this process, especially for our own comrades.

**THE PURPOSE OF THE RHOF**

The self-stated purpose of the RHOF

is, according to its Bylaws, to "honor and preserve the contributions of the most extraordinary US Rangers in American history, to identify and highlight individuals as role models for current era Rangers, and to educate the public on the culture of the US Army Rangers." When our Association - the E51 G75 LRRP/Ranger Association ("E51 G75") - puts the name of one of our members forward as a candidate for the RHOF, we are implicitly and emphatically stating our belief that our candidate is one of "the most extraordinary US Rangers in American history" or is a "role model for current era Rangers," or both. This is a great responsibility that falls upon us, not only in terms of very carefully screening the names of those from our unit who we nominate to ensure that they meet these standards, but also ensuring that we identify and nominate all of our teammates who deserve to be enshrined in the RHOF. (Note: the complete RHOF Bylaws may be found at <http://www.trausa.com/rhof.htm>.)

**RHOF ELIGIBILITY**

Let's deal with the most obvious question - just who is eligible for the RHOF? There are only a few rules, outlined in the RHOF Bylaws, some straight-forward, and some providing broad leeway for those considering whether or not to advance the name of a candidate.

First, according to the RHOF Bylaws, "at the time of nomination, the person must be deceased, or separated/retired from active military service for at least three years." This rule is self-explanatory and would not exclude any one from our Association, except for those few patriots still serving the nation in the Armed Forces, or who have only recently left the service.

Second, to be eligible, a candidate "must have served in a Ranger unit in combat or be a successful graduate of the US Army Ranger School." The RHOF recognizes as eligible, persons who were graduates of

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## President's Column

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Ranger School, even if they never saw service in a combat unit, as well as persons who saw combat in a Ranger unit, whether or not they were graduates of Ranger school. For purposes of this section of the RHOF Bylaws, Ranger units are defined "as those units recognized in Ranger lineage or history." Thus, persons who served in one of the lettered Ranger companies in Vietnam, such as our own G Co. (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, for example, or one of its predecessor units - E Co. (Long Range Patrol), 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry or the LRRP Detachment of the 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade - or its successor unit - E Co. (Long Range Surveillance), 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 165<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion - would be eligible, even if they did not attend Ranger School. Those eligible Rangers who were awarded the Medal of Honor, such as our own Robert Pruden, are automatically inducted without regard to the nomination and induction process described in this article. Vic Valeriano, and now Danny Jacks and Tom Robison, were inducted pursuant to the full nomination and induction process.

Third, the achievements through which a person might become eligible for the RHOF would certainly include those actions that might generally be referred to as extraordinary bravery in combat. But in addition, "achievement or service may be measured in terms of a Ranger who leaves the Armed Forces and serves the nation from a position in local, state or national government or displays the outstanding character and leadership in the private or business sector." A review of the current membership of the RHOF, for example, will find great warriors to be sure, but also great leaders, doctors, politicians, and even men of God. For a list of all RHOF members and their citations, see [http://www.benning.army.mil/rtb/hall\\_of\\_fame/new\\_hof.htm](http://www.benning.army.mil/rtb/hall_of_fame/new_hof.htm).

### THE PROCESS

Eligible nominees for the RHOF must clear three successive hurdles, i.e.,

1. a) nomination by the parent unit association or organization - in our case, by the Board of E51 G75;  
b) nomination by a living member of the RHOF; and then
2. approval by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association (the "75thRRA"), except that nominees submitted by living members of the RHOF will not be reviewed by the 75thRRA, but instead will be submitted directly to the RHOF Selection Board (the "RHOF Board"); and finally
3. approval by the RHOF Board.

The process of nominating a person for induction into the RHOF is intended to be peer initiated and is a group effort. Nominations originate with the people who know the candidate the best - those who served with him.

It's important to note that E51 G75 has no standing of its own in the process, except as it is a recognized member unit of the 75thRRA. The fact is that only those associations recognized by the RHOF Board can submit nominations: individuals or other organizations, such as a company-sized association like E51 G75 cannot, other than the particular exception noted below for living members of the RHOF, directly nominate a person for induction into the RHOF. The RHOF Board recognizes the 75thRRA as the legitimate and sole voice for all of the Vietnam-lettered Ranger companies, including E51 G75, the BDQ (the Vietnamese Rangers), plus the active Ranger commands. As a result, our Association's nominees must be submitted to the RHOF Board by the 75thRRA.

E51 G75 candidates compete with the candidates from every one of the 20 or so member organizations of the

75<sup>th</sup>RRA that are entitled to submit nominations to the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA. If every member unit were to submit several names to the 75thRRA, there could be nearly 50 names submitted. This is important as this is where significant "logjams" can occur, because out of all the nominations received by the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA from its member units, the 75thRRA can select and submit only 3 names to the RHOF Board annually. One good sign for us is that it seems that many of the other member organizations may not be as active as E51 G75 is, since last year there were only 6 nominating submissions in total from all of the 75thRRA's member groups, 2 of whom were E51 G75 candidates, and this year again, there were only 6 nominating submissions in total from all of the 75thRRA's member groups, including 3 nominations from E51 G75.

### E51 G75 PROCESS

The entire process starts with us. In our association, any member, or group of members can suggest that E51 G75, through its Board, nominate an individual for induction into the RHOF. The E51 G75 Board will review the eligibility and qualifications of suggested candidates and either approve or disapprove them. It's expected that member suggestions will be meaningful and not frivolous; will take into account the likelihood that his( their) nominee can withstand the scrutiny and review by both the 75thRRA and the RHOF Board; and that the person or persons suggesting a specific nominee can support and actively contribute to the process of gathering the requisite materials and submitting his( their) nominee for consideration for induction.

If an individual nomination is approved by E51 G75, a nomination package must be prepared for submission to the 75thRRA. There is no limit to the number of names that E51 G75 (or any other member unit of the 75thRRA) can submit to the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA.

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## Ranger Hall of Fame

### Our Comrades Danny L. Jacks and Thomas C. Robison Inducted Into Ranger Hall Of Fame

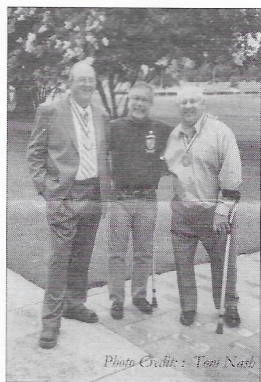
By: Tom Nash

Thursday, July 7, 2005 was an important and proud date in our unit's history. On that date, with former teammates and other members of our unit, friends and many family members present, Danny Jacks and Tom Robison were inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame (the "RHOF"). In a ceremony held in Fort Benning's Marshall Auditorium, in the shadow of the Ranger Memorial, Danny and Tom joined Robert Pruden (1992) and Vic Valeriano (2002), the only other members of our unit to be so honored.

Tom's and Danny's elections were preceded by the usual period of intense review and scrutiny lasting over two years. Our Association voted to nominate Tom and Danny as candidates for the Hall of Fame in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Our nominations were researched and drafted by members of our unit, approved by our Board, and then forwarded to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association (the "75thRRA"), under whose auspices our Association operates as it relates to the RHOF. Our nominations were placed under consideration along with the nominations of the other 20 member units of the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA. Nominations from the 75thRRA – no more than three – along with nominations from all of the other Ranger associations, such as the Merrill's Marauders Association, the Ranger Battalions Associations of WWII, the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War and the

United States Army Ranger Association, as well as the active Ranger commands, and former RHOF inductees, were then submitted to the RHOF Executive Board for its consideration. After deliberating and reviewing all of the submissions, the RHOF Executive Board selected Tom and Danny as two of its 19 RHOF honorees for 2005.

The induction ceremony was inspiring, as it always is, and came amidst several days of celebration and reflection in the Ranger community. In addition to the actual induction ceremonies, there were other festivities, including the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment's change of command ceremony, and the RHOF dinner with its unique snake appetizers, as well as a variety of demonstrations by today's Rangers. At the induction ceremony, representatives of each of the



*Danny Jacks, Vic Valeriano, Tom Robison*

Ranger Associations, the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment marched into the auditorium, joining the inductees and their guests to witness the induction of this year's honorees. Many current members of the RHOF were present. Each new inductee's individual citation was read to the assemblage, and then the inductee was presented with a medallion emblematic of his membership in the Hall of Fame by the COs and 1st Sergeants of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and the Ranger Training Brigade. Then each inductee spoke briefly to those gathered in the auditorium. It is clear from the reception given each inductee that they are all held

in the highest esteem and are viewed with awe by today's Rangers. Finally, after today's Rangers recited the Ranger Creed, the crowd left the auditorium to gather at the wall surrounding the Ranger memorial to visit the newly inscribed names of the new inductees.

Both Danny's and Tom's remarks, though brief, spoke volumes of the true nature of these men, and reflected their humility and dignity. And though brief, their remarks contained a fair amount of emotion. Each remarked that his membership in the RHOF was due in no small part to others who had touched their lives, including family and comrades. Tom mentioned his "life team" – his family – his children, grandchildren and his "ATL" – his wife Sharon. Danny also mentioned his wife Marcel and their family, and described his special relationship with Robert Pruden, his one-time Team Leader. Watching Tom's and Danny's moments in the spotlight filled all who know them with pride.

### Tom Robison

Tom Robison was born on February 27, 1946 in Jackson, Michigan to Robert and Gladys Robison. He attended the St. John School system in Jackson Michigan until his graduation in 1964. His extra-curricular activities were limited, as he was required to work nights and weekends at his family's grocery store. Tom attended Cleary Business College and Jackson Business University 1965-1967, until receiving his induction notice.

Tom was inducted into the United States Army on August 1, 1967 and attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he was promoted upon graduation to Private E-2. He was then sent to take Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, and, upon graduation in December of 1967, was again promoted, this time to Private First Class.

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## Ranger Hall of Fame

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Tom's next assignment was a reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 11th Brigade, Americal (23rd Infantry) Division in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Tom's evident leadership qualities earned him a promotion to Spec Four just two months after being assigned to his new unit. And, the following month his new unit was deployed to South Vietnam.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Tom learned about the Division's LRRP Unit and shortly thereafter volunteered. Although his request was initially denied by both his Company and Battalion commanders on the grounds that his platoon was already short several men, his request for transfer was eventually granted, and he was reassigned to E Company, 51st Infantry (LRP), and was selected to attend the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. Upon graduation, he returned to our unit, where he was selected to lead a team and was promoted to Sergeant E-5.

During his stay with the unit, Tom successfully completed in excess of thirty missions sustaining no casualties on his team once he became a Team Leader. This was a remarkable achievement in itself, given the enemy infested areas in which our unit operated. But then, on February 9, 1969, Tom's life changed forever. While acting as the Assistant Team Leader of his team in order that his replacement as Team Leader could gain valuable experience, and with only days left in his tour of duty, a land mine was detonated near the team. Tom was hit. His wounds were devastating. In and out of consciousness for days, he awoke in a field hospital to find out that his left leg had been traumatically amputated; that he had been blinded; that his right leg had been badly fractured in four places (carrying with it a recommendation that it too be amputated); and that he had several puncture wounds in his lower body. He was not told that he had been given less than 24 hours to live by the attending doctors, or that his mother was on her way to Japan where he

would be moved as soon as he stabilized.

Tom continued to lapse in and out of consciousness, and his memory of those first few days is limited as a result. Tom remembers that the evacuation facility in which he was temporarily held came under an enemy mortar attack during his stay, and he was covered with a mattress to protect him from further injury. And, though no one felt that he would survive those first hours and days, he did so, and he was airlifted to an Air Force Hospital in Tachakowa, Japan. He then learned, when he again awoke from unconsciousness that his kidneys had failed because he had been infused with an excessive amount of whole blood; that he had, in fact, bled out twice; and that the chances of saving his right leg were at best, minimal. At that point in his life, Tom could easily have given in – most men would have. But Tom refused to accept his prognosis and

refused amputation of his right leg. He did regain some sight after about four weeks. His right eye had a piece of wood embedded in it, a piece of wood that remains in his eye to this day. During the ensuing nine weeks in Japan, Tom underwent and endured no fewer than 20 major surgeries, and underwent hemodialysis weekly. After nine weeks in Japan, Tom was transported from Japan to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, where he had additional surgeries. Tom's leg remained troublesome and severely infected, and on repeated occasions, amputation was again suggested, and each time Tom refused. Then, at the end of July, 1969, Tom was transported to the

VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan for further treatment, where he then spent a year on his back bedridden. He initially found it difficult to eat because he had not eaten for so long, having been fed intravenously since the initial injuries, and had dropped from 175 pounds to 109 pounds before his health started to improve. The physicians attending him advised that Tom would never walk again and suggested that he begin to acquaint himself with a wheelchair. As he had done before, however, he would prove the physicians wrong. He had developed a resolute and tough "can do" attitude that was highly influenced by his LRRP/Ranger training, with survival as his primary mission. His focus, motivation and determination

to repair his broken body to the extent possible and to resume a normal and productive life are indicative of the special and deep character of this man. Eighteen months after being wounded, Tom, though with some difficulty, was able to walk from the VA hospital under

his own power with his right leg intact.

*Having a sense, no doubt fostered by his remarkable recovery, that he could accomplish anything he attempted, he enrolled in Michigan State University. Not only did he graduate, he also achieved a post-graduate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and became an attorney. Rather than enter a commercially lucrative field of law, Tom became a court administrator and juvenile court referee. In the ensuing twenty years, he used his influence to have the records of juvenile offenders expunged so they could*

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*Thomas C. Robison and Danny Lee Jacks names join the honored ranks on the Ranger Hall of Fame Wall*

## Ranger Hall of Fame

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join the military. He urged these troubled teens to use the GI Bill for education after the service and has on many occasions been stopped in the street and thanked by former delinquents now living productive lives. Tom has presided over cases involving neglect and both physical and sexual abuse cases on behalf of children, always ensuring that the child's interests were protected. Tom has practiced law for ten years as a Court Administrator/Attorney Referee in Eaton County, Michigan, and three years as a Court Administrator for the Michigan Court of Appeals. He spent two years as a Trial Court Administrator in Tuscola County, Michigan and six years as Adjunct Professor of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He was active within the South Lansing Lions Club, having held the posts of President, Vice President, and Sight Conservation Chairman, along with being named Lion of the Year in 1986

Tom drafted the Articles of Incorporation for G Company Ranger Association and filed them with the State of



*Sgt. Tom Robison is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame*

Michigan, along with the requisite IRS filings. He has acted as Corporate Counsel for this Association since its inception in 1990. And, in addition, he was recently elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the 75th RRA.

Upon his return to civilian life, Tom began dating an old friend, Sharon Furtwangler, and they were married a year later. The Robisons have been married for thirty-two years and have been blessed with three sons and five grandchildren.

Tom's Ranger Hall of Fame citation reads as follows:



### Sergeant Thomas C. Robison

Sergeant Thomas Clement Robison is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for providing an extraordinary example of what a Ranger should be, not only in the field of battle as a Ranger Team Leader, but also in the manner in which he faced the challenge of severe life-threatening wounds that would have broken most men, and, in the way he conducted his life thereafter. After serving with E Company (Long Range Patrol), 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment and G Company (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam as a Ranger Team Leader in excess of thirty missions, Sergeant Robison volunteered for one last mission before leaving Vietnam to ensure the transition of his team to a new Team Leader. On that mission a land mine was detonated, and Sergeant Robison was seriously wounded. He had been blinded, his left leg had been traumatically amputated, his right leg had been badly fractured in four places, and he had several dangerous puncture wounds in his lower body. In

the first ten weeks following his injury alone, he would endure no fewer than twenty surgeries, while undergoing weekly hemodialysis. He would endure many additional and painful

surgeries and procedures during the balance of his eighteen months in hospitals from Japan to Washington to Michigan. He forged a resolute and Ranger-tough "can do" attitude. Survival became his primary mission, and he succeeded. Despite the expectation that he would not survive twenty four hours, he survived. Despite the expectation that his right leg would require amputation, he would not permit it. Despite the expectation that he would spend his life in a wheelchair, he walked from the hospital under his own power eighteen months after being wounded. Sergeant Robison refused to allow his wounds to limit him in any way. After leaving the hospital, Sergeant Robison returned to college, graduated and went on to earn a law degree. Rather than enter a commercially lucrative field of law, Sergeant Robison became a court administrator and "led the way" in his community by devoting much of his professional life to helping the young. He has helped youthful offenders have their records expunged so they could join the military. He became a proponent of the GI bill. He was instrumental in building, staffing, designing programs for, and maintaining a juvenile treatment center. He raised money to develop a day treatment program. He has presided over cases involving neglect, and physical and sexual abuse of children, always ensuring that the interests of the young were protected. He has touched, in a positive way the lives of hundreds of young people who have come before him. Sergeant Robison continues today to pass on the knowledge and experience he has gained over the years as an adjunct professor of law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

His determination to recover from overwhelming and near fatal wounds reflects the admonition "Surrender is not a Ranger word." His life after recovery as an attorney, citizen, father, husband, youth advocate and educator clearly demonstrate that he "upholds the prestige, honor, and "esprit de corps" of the Ranger Regiment." Sergeant Robison has lived a life that clearly demonstrates that "Rangers Lead the Way!"



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### Danny Lee Jacks

Danny Lee Jacks was born to R.L. and Betty Jacks on September 13, 1948 at the Hot Springs Army and Navy Hospital in Arkansas. Because he spent his formative years as an "Army Brat" at a variety of bases, including Japan, where he attended kindergarten, military tradition and patriotic values were ingrained in Danny at an early age. After his father left the service, the Jacks' family settled on a farm in south central Arkansas – home to Danny ever since. Danny spent the next 12 years in the Woodlawn, Arkansas school system, graduating in 1966, just in time to be confronted with the emerging specter of Vietnam.

While many of Danny's peers avoided the draft during the Vietnam era, Danny responded to his Country's call by joining the Army. Danny attended Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, during which time he was nominated to subsequently attend the NCO Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduating from both the NCO Academy and Airborne training at Ft. Benning, Danny was shipped to Vietnam in April, 1969.

Danny began his tour of duty in Vietnam by again stepping forward to answer a call for volunteers. While at the Reception Center for the Americal (23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry) Division at Chu Lai, Danny responded to a challenge from two LRRP representatives searching among the newly arrived troops for volunteers for their unit. Danny immediately volunteered and became a member of E Company (Long Range Patrol), 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry – subsequently G Company (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Danny graduated from the Americal Recondo School course, with honors, and also successfully completed the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang.

The story of Danny Jacks in Vietnam is inextricably and forever linked with the story of Staff Sergeant Robert J. ("Bob") Pruden, a posthumous recipi-

ent of the Medal of Honor, and a member of the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Danny was greatly influenced by his close friendship and association with SSG Robert Pruden, his LRRP team leader and friend. On November 29, 1969, Danny, acting as assistant team leader on Team Oregon, led by SSG Pruden, witnessed SSG Pruden's death while engaged in a selfless act of courage and heroism that led to SSG Pruden's posthumous award of the Medal of Honor. During this encounter, Bob Pruden knowingly exposed himself to enemy fire to draw attention to himself and to protect his men. After SSG Pruden was mortally wounded, Danny assumed command of the patrol, and cared for SSG Pruden until the team was able to be evacuated.

The time that Danny and Robert Pruden shared together, and the life-altering circumstances of watching his friend die in his arms, shaped Danny's awareness of the true meaning of courage and leadership. From the life lessons learned from this experience, and a deep personal sense of loyalty, Danny

became a prototypical model for all LRRP and Ranger leadership. His leadership and courage subsequently earned him the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the enduring respect and admiration of his teammates and comrades.

On December 20, 1969, Danny was leading a long range reconnaissance patrol, in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in Quang Ngai Province. As his team was being inserted into the selected LZ, Danny

became aware of an enemy force to the team's front. With 5 members of the team having already evacuated the insertion helicopter, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Danny exposed himself to the enemy attack by laying down a base of covering fire in concert with the chopper's door gunner, allowing his teammates the time needed to return to, and board, the chopper. After evacuating the LZ, Danny selected another LZ and continued the mission. Danny's timely action was responsible for the success of the mission as well as the safe return of the men in his charge. For his actions on that date, Danny was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism.

In August 1970, Danny, by then Staff Sergeant Jacks, was assigned the mission of leading a LRRP team con-



SSgt. Danny Jacks is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

ducting an area reconnaissance south-east of Tra Bong, with a secondary mission of executing a prisoner snatch. While on the patrol, the team became aware of a hostile force in the vicinity. Danny's team watched as the enemy force, consisting of more than the 130 men the team was able to actually see and count, passed in front of the team's concealed position. The team's plan was to allow the enemy element to pass, picking off a straggler or two at the end

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## Ranger Hall of Fame

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of the long enemy column. But, just as this plan was being executed, the team came under heavy fire as the result of a counter ambush by the enemy. Reacting to the urgency of the situation, and recognizing that his team was also in danger of an assault by the larger enemy element that had passed them, Danny immediately and unhesitatingly led a counter assault against the enemy's ambush position. Without regard to the personal danger involved, Danny maintained a highly accurate barrage of small arms fire that eliminated two of the enemy attackers and routed the remainder of the hostile soldiers. Then, recognizing the need to regroup and reassess the larger enemy unit's strength and position, Danny led his men across a small stream when the team again suddenly came under intense hostile fire. Although he was wounded in the ensuing fierce exchange of fire, Danny directed his men to defensive positions while continuing to engage the enemy. Again, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Danny repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy's fire while marking their positions for friendly fire support. Despite the continued pressure, he remained in his vulnerable position until the enemy force was completely defeated. Danny was awarded the Silver Star for his courageous leadership of the team during the engagement, his commitment to his men, and his resolve to complete the mission.

Danny's commitment to his teammates did not end when he left the service, as Le Thanh Giai, a former South Vietnamese soldier who served with Team Oregon during the war, can testify. Through contacts, Danny found out about the plight of his former teammate in his native country and the privations he suffered as the result of his support of American efforts to help the Vietnamese people during the Vietnam conflict. Danny made arrangements for the granting of a visa for Mr. Giai, gave him a job in Arkansas, and eventually helped him to move to California to

seek broader employment opportunities.

Several years ago, Danny was invited by E Company, 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry (Long Range Surveillance) (Airborne) – the successor to our own E51 LRP unit – to Camp Bondsteel in Germany to participate in festivities honoring and celebrating the life and sacrifice of Robert Pruden. The ceremonies included a Ranger Competition and a Ball. As he toured the camp, Danny was able to see installations and a street named for his friend. But perhaps even more gratifying to Danny was that he was able to speak with one of the young men from E51 LRS who related that he and his teammates had studied operational plans developed by Bob Pruden and Mr. Jacks for the taking of VC and NVA prisoners in preparation for their own mission.

Danny has been the frequent subject of stories and articles published in books, newspapers, periodicals, and on the History Channel. Vietnamese newspapers in the United States have also documented his contributions in helping his former South Vietnamese teammate become an American Citizen.

Danny Jacks has been married to his wife, Marcel, for 33 years. They have a son, Greg, a daughter, Cindy, and several grandchildren. The Jacks attend the Center Missionary Baptist Church and continue to farm in the Rison area.

Danny's Ranger Hall of Fame citation reads as follows:

.....  
Staff Sergeant Danny Lee Jacks

*Danny Lee Jacks is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exemplary leadership and courage during long range reconnaissance patrols in 1969 and 1970 while assigned to Company G (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Americal (23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry) Division. Specifically, in August 1970, Staff Sergeant Jacks was assigned the mission of conducting an area*

*reconnaissance southeast of Tra Bong, Vietnam, with a secondary mission to capture enemy personnel. While on the patrol, the team became aware of a hostile force in the vicinity. Staff Sergeant Jacks' team watched as the enemy force, consisting of more than one hundred thirty men, passed in front of the team's concealed position. The team's plan was to allow the enemy element to pass, picking off a straggler or two at the end of the enemy column. But, as the team began to execute this plan, the team came under heavy fire as the result of a counter ambush by the enemy. Reacting to the urgency of the situation, and recognizing that his team was also in danger of an assault by the larger enemy element that had passed them, Staff Sergeant Jacks immediately and unhesitatingly, led a counter assault against the enemy's ambush position. Without regard to the personal danger involved, Staff Sergeant Jacks maintained a highly accurate barrage of small arms fire that eliminated two of the enemy attackers and routed the remainder of the hostile soldiers. Then, recognizing the need to regroup and reassess the larger enemy unit's strength and position relative to his team, Staff Sergeant Jacks led his men across a small stream when the team again suddenly came under intense hostile fire. Although he was wounded in the ensuing fierce exchange of fire, Staff Sergeant Jacks directed his men to defensive positions while continuing to engage the enemy. Again, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Staff Sergeant Jacks' repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy's fire while marking their positions for friendly fire support. Despite the continued pressure, he remained in his vulnerable position until the enemy force was completely defeated. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to the overall success of the mission and served as an inspiration to his entire unit. Staff Sergeant Jacks' commitment to his men, and his resolve to complete the mission, set him apart for all time as an exceptional role model for all military leaders. His personal courage, high skill level and competence, and his devotion to duty, his team, and his Country are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Ranger community, and the US Army."*

We have all benefited from know-

(Continued on page 9)

## News and Updates

### Like Father Like Son!

Congratulations to John Gillette, who, the week of August 15, was able to pin jump wings on his son Matt at the conclusion of jump school.



### Online Military Records Access

The National Personnel Records Center has made it easier for Veterans and next of kin of deceased former military members to use the new online military records system. Through this site, you may obtain the necessary documentation for obtaining military records. Try them at [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov).

*(Continued from page 8)*

ing Tom and Danny whether we served with them or know them only from our Association's reunions. Tom has overcome disabilities that would have stopped most men in their tracks, and has had an exemplary life. By his refusal to quit, by his determination to complete his "mission" of recovery, and by his day to day actions, Tom Robison brings great credit and pride to our unit. And Danny has shown the true nature of friendship and leadership in the face of the elusiveness of life during wartime. And both will stand tall for all time as examples for new Rangers on the wall surrounding the Ranger Memorial on which their names have been inscribed.

We offer Tom and Danny our heartfelt and warmest congratulations!

Tom Nash



*General William Westmoreland*

Photo Courtesy: Boston Globe Website

General William Westmoreland, commander of the US military operations in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, died at the age of 91 on July 18, 2005.

The following are quotes he has made since the war:

*"The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars."*

*"I do not believe that the men who served in uniform in Vietnam have been given the credit they deserve. It was a difficult war against an unorthodox enemy."*

*"Television is an instrument which can paralyze this country."*

William Childs Westmoreland (born March 26, 1914, Spartanburg County, South Carolina) served as US Army Chief of Staff from 1968 to 1972.



## POST WAR DECEASED

By: Jerry Schuster

This is a listing of our Post War Deceased. The count is 53. We suspect we have several others. The listings are the ones we have been notified about over the last few years.

Time is passing. Call that old war buddy. Both will be glad you did.

- Avgoulis, Anthony
- Bennett, John W.
- Bennett, Daniel K.
- Bogue, Richard
- Bonner, Clyde
- Boyd, Walter A.
- Brookbush, Kirk
- Chandler, Lance T.
- Cruse, David C.
- Dewsnup, Danny W.
- Felts, John H.
- Fountain, Cecil M.
- Fritzinger, John F.
- Gromacki, James R.
- Grondines, Paul A.
- Halbert, Bob
- Hogan, Robert L.
- Jackson, David W.
- Johnson, Melvin D.
- Jones, Zola R.
- Jordan, Curtis
- Juan, Frederick L.
- King, Bobby L.
- Kinnison, Ronald E.
- Kish, David
- Klein, Raymond E.
- Knight, John B.
- Kraus, Joseph F.
- Lewis, Harry E.
- Likely, Richard A.
- Mandel, Bradley J.
- McPeak, PSG
- Mincey, Claude Lee
- Nipper, Eddie R.
- O'Dell, Gerald R.
- Pavlic, James J.
- Perry, Merrill
- Powers, Rainey R.
- Ridenhour, Ronald
- Roeher, David L.
- Salwin, Robert
- Schellinger, Donald
- Serna, Julian
- Simpson, Robert
- Skinner, Dial L.
- Smith, Morris E.
- Sparks, James L.
- Ward, Steve
- Watson, Lewis B.
- Wessel, Richard
- Whitcomb, Alan E.
- Wingert, Brian A.
- Young, Jarrell A.

## Reunion - 2005

### Reunion - 2005 *How Great It Was!*

By: Jerry Schuster

Trying to define a reunion is very difficult. Trying to report on a reunion is even more difficult. It seems there is no way to convey the emotion, the camaraderie, the enjoyment, or the feeling of well being brought on by reunions.

Reunions are, well they just are. Everyone seems to have a great time just kicking back and renewing old friendships and ties. Seeing someone you haven't seen in 30 odd years is a rush. Seeing someone you saw at the last reunion is a rush. I think perhaps a near definition of our reunions is a "rush".

No matter what, we are tied and bound together as one unit. The names and faces never go away. Sometimes it is difficult to match a name with a face not seen in many many years, and sometimes it is necessary to see a picture of them "back then" in order to recognize them to-



*Good company, a cool can of beer and the tall tales just keep getting taller!*

day. What a joy it is to finally put a name back on a face that has lingered in the recesses of time.

Time is not a renewable commodity. Attend that reunion. Bring your wife. Both will be glad you did.

Having attended several reunions and having become friends with those from other eras, it blends together. It really causes you to think sometimes, did I serve with this guy, or is he known from previous reunions? Eras melt away. Danny Jacks served a year after I did, but we have visited each other's homes and it is suspected we shall do so again. Frank Svensson and Dave Moncada, both from other eras have visited. Earl Toomey, Wayne Barber and Joseph Meinike have also been by.

Drop in on one of your buddies through the year. Enjoyable times are to be had. Danny Jacks called one time and said he was just out driving around. It seems he was almost to our house. I invited them by and he stated, "I was hoping you would ask"! Marcel and Linda had a great time while Danny and I solved the world's problems and discussed upcoming reunions.

This reunion started off with four Lrrp Rangers two days early, fourteen one day early, then they started packing in.

We were pleased to see first time attendees, '69 era first sergeant Clifford Manning along with his wife Theresia, Grady and Emma Harshaw, Kenneth and Patricia Fenton, Paul and Judy Newberry and Udell Strack was accompanied by his golf clubs.

Several of the Detachment A, 196<sup>th</sup> Bde LRRPs came in grinning. Earl Toomey and his wife Karin, Mark Brennan, Gary Copeman, Charles Haussler, Vic Valeriano, Larry Hogan and wife Carolyn, Jerry Howard, Mike Inman and his wife Lora, Mike Maar and his wife Gisela, Tony Mazzucchi, Dave McLaughlin, Mike McMahon and wife



*Visiting by the pool was a must... as Tony Mazzucchi, Tom Nash, Gisela Marr, Mike Marr, Jerry Schuster and Mark Brennan can attest..*

Ellen, Tom Nash, Dave Travis, and Bob Wheeler accompanied by Jane Perlas.

These are some of the earliest LRRPs. Some of which were founding members. They were so early in the LRRP history..... Tony Mazzucchi gave lessons on how to load a musket and Mike Maar on how to fire it while running up hill carrying a 275-pound toe sack. Earl Toomey lit the lantern on the first day. Vic Valeriano and Ethan Allen were pals. That is the whole Lrrp Ranger truth. (Maybe).

A few of the later 196<sup>th</sup> LRRPs and early E/51 LRRPs attending were Joseph Meinike, Eddlon Knox and wife Audrey, and Jerry Schuster and wife Linda.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Reunion - 2005

*(Continued from page 10)*

Late E/51, early G/75 guys were Ray Straub, and Tom Robinson and wife Sharon, Richard Corkan and wife JoJo.

Showing up in true form were the G/75 crew. Danny Jacks, Dale and

Steve and Lori Crabtree, Perry Hughes, Keith Oney and the infamous A.J. Pack.

Ross and Pamela Quarnoccio, Dennis and Percilla Nye, Felix and Jan Blinn, Lee Kenner, Gerald Windell, and Robert Guynn, John and Alice Sausville, and Frank and Carol Svennson.

We are short a few names on attendance. This list was compiled from registration forms.

If you missed filling out a form, or if my memory has failed, I apologize. Please let me know who you are and we will list your name in the next newsletter.

Our next reunion will be in Dallas, TX. Advance party will arrive June 22d. The reunion begins on June 23d and ends on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Early birds are always welcome and stay over is fine too.

We are in the process of setting up the hotel now. Our own Perry Hughes, a Dallas hotelier, is doing most of the work, while I make noise and try to sound important.

We hope to set up a tour of Dealy Plaza. We understand the School Book Depository is now open for tour. We



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Tony Mazzuchi, Gisella Marr, Mike Marr, Mark Brennan ... What it's all about..*

Selma McClarigan, Dan Linehan, John Haines, Marty and Sandy Kuykendall,



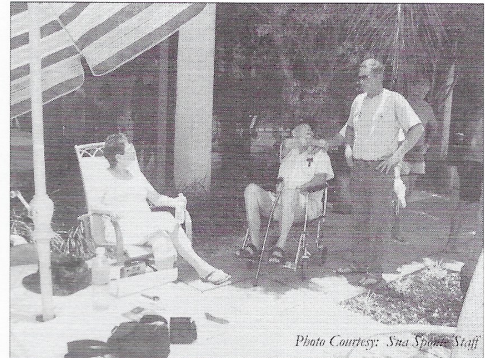
*Photo courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Everyone enjoyed Mike Inman's computer generated picture presentation .*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Saturday night banquet...*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

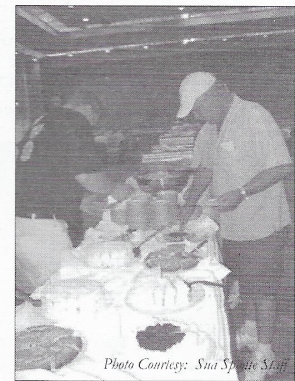
*Marilyn Simpson, Earl Toomey, Dennis Nye, Mark Brennan enjoy the fun and sun.*

should be able to look out the window Oswald used and see if we can decide. The grassy knoll can also be visited, although some changes to the area may have been made. Do you remember where you were when President Kennedy was assassinated?



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*John Sausville and Ross Quarnoccio*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Yum-Yum!!*

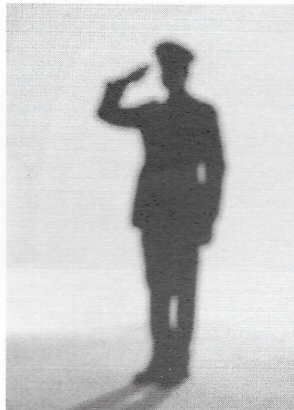
*Continued on page 12...*



August 11, 1942 - August 26, 2005

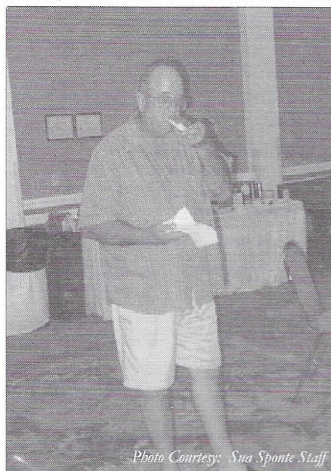
It is with great sadness that we inform you that Earl Toomey has passed away. He left us at 2:30 am Thursday, August 26, 2005. His passing was peaceful and leaves a hole in the lives of all who knew him, especially those who served with him during those heady first days of the 196th LRRPs. Our best goes out to Karin, Todd and Jenn.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Wednesday evening, August 31, 2005 at the VFW Post 8463, 4709 SE 11th Place, Cape Coral, FL, 33904 with Honor Guards in attendance. We salute you, Earl.



# REUNION - 2005

Continued from page 11.....

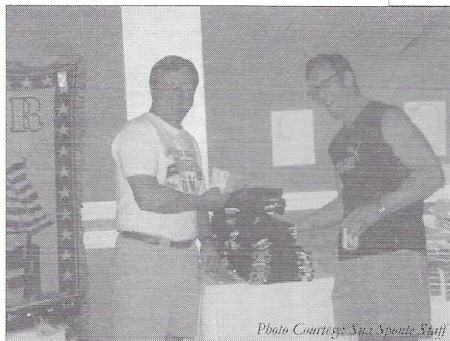


*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Danny Jacks looks like all the rest of us.. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think it was 27 pizza's that were ordered (and eaten!) on Friday night!



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

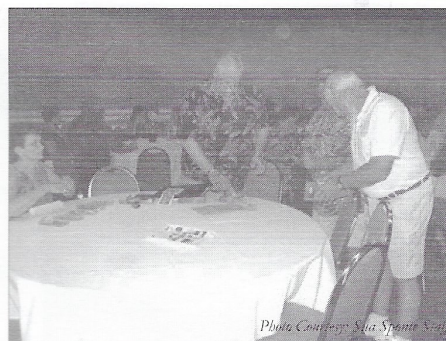
## The Guys .... Reunion 2005



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 "Fast Frankie" Svansson selling concessions to Dan Lineban



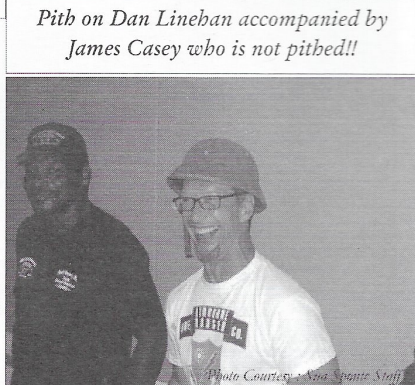
*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Breakfast .. Saying goodbyes



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Marilyn Simpson and Tom Nash selling tickets to Paul Newberry at the auction



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Emma and Grady Harshaw at the banquet with Thereisa and Cliff Manning



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Pith on Dan Lineban accompanied by James Casey who is not pitthed!!



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*  
 Sharon & Tom Robison, JoJo & "Boot" Corckan. Danny Jacks

## Updates and News

### GOLDEN P\*\*\* TUBE AWARD

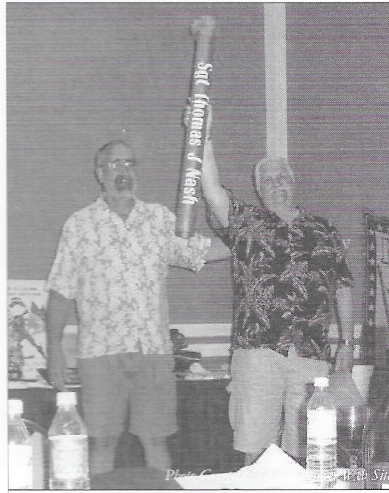
By: Sua Sponte Staff

Steve Crabtree has awarded the Golden P\*\*\* Tube Award to members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in providing service to the Association. There is no higher award that can be presented.

This year's presentation went to our Association President Tom Nash. By this time, we are sure Diane has it hanging on the wall of their formal living room.

Tom follows in the footsteps of Tony Avgoulis, James McWilliams, Bob Parker, Mike Chu, John Fritzinger, Steve Russell, Scott Nelson, Jerry Schuster, and Frank Svensson in receiving the award.

A hip, hip, and a hooray for Tom.



*Tom Nash is presented The Golden P\*\*\* Tube Award by Steve Crabtree for dedication and accomplishment above and beyond the call of duty.*

### Steve Crabtree, Tom Robison Elected to Board of "75th" RRA

By: Tom Nash

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for both Steve Crabtree, past president of our Association, and Tom Robison, our longtime legal counsel and one of this year's inductees into the Ranger Hall of Fame for their elections as, respectively, President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association (the "75thRRA"). In accepting election to the 75thRRA, Steve and Tom undertake a highly responsible and significant challenge. The 75thRRA is a large organization with many programs to be overseen, and many members with divergent interests.

CONGRATULATIONS and  
GOOD LUCK Steve and Tom!!!!

Tom Nash

### REUNION 2005 PROVES TO BE A SUCCESS



By: Frank Svensson,

The 2005 Ft. Myers, FL reunion was a huge financial success for the association. Those who attended were treated to a wonderful buffet dinner on Saturday (thanks Earl and Karin!) as well as the drinks and munchies in the hospitality suite. A net profit of almost \$2,450.00 was realized for this year's event. The biggest reason for this was the generosity of the members, and their wives, at the auction. All had a great time. "Boot" Corkan once again served as our auctioneer and did his usual magnificent job.

On behalf of the association, thanks to those who participated and were so generous with their bidding.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Balance Sheet

As of 7/29/2005

Account	Balance
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
<b>Cash &amp; Bank Accounts</b> <small>(Checking #2450-0587)</small>	
Lifetime Memberships .....	\$ 13,130.00
Disposable Income .....	9,108.00
Cash .....	0
<b>TOTAL Cash &amp; Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 22,238.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities .....	0
Equity .....	\$ 22,238.00
<b>TOTAL Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$ 22,238.00</b>



### Profit & Loss Statement

1/1/2005 through 8/15/2005

<b>INCOME</b>	
Interest, January .....	\$ 16.00
Interest, February .....	28.00
Interest, March .....	30.00
Interest, April .....	36.00
Interest, May .....	39.00
Interest, June .....	40.00
Interest, July .....	44.00
Commission .....	50.00
Dues .....	760.00
Misc. ....	80.00
Concessions .....	1219.00
2005 Reunion Auction .....	1800.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,142.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Account Fee .....	\$ 60.00
Check Order .....	10.00
Postage .....	150.00
Printing .....	724.00
Supplies, Bus .....	740.00
Re-imbursement of expenses .....	300.00
Reunion 2005 .....	500.00
Concession Expenses .....	2,286.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,770.00</b>
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>-628.00</b>

## Memorial - 2005

# Memorial Service-2005

By: Sua Sponte Staff

The Memorial Service for our brothers who were killed in action was conducted Saturday Morning July 2, 2005, at the Airborne Memorial in Fort Myers, FL.

The service was conducted by Association President Tom Nash in reading the names of our dead and having a moment of silence in their honor.

75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association President Steve Crabtree added a few words of praise for our fallen, and lauded their devotion to duty.

We were honored to have in attendance, Phoebe Sculles, sister of Ronald "John-John" Jonsson. Ronald was a member of our unit who gave his life March 8, 1968.

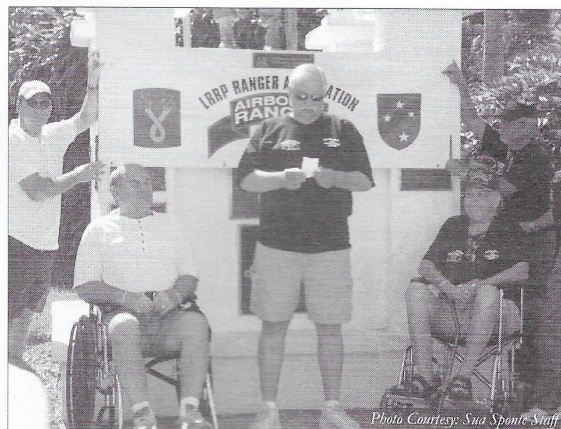
The memorial service is conducted during each reunion we have.

**We shall never forget.**



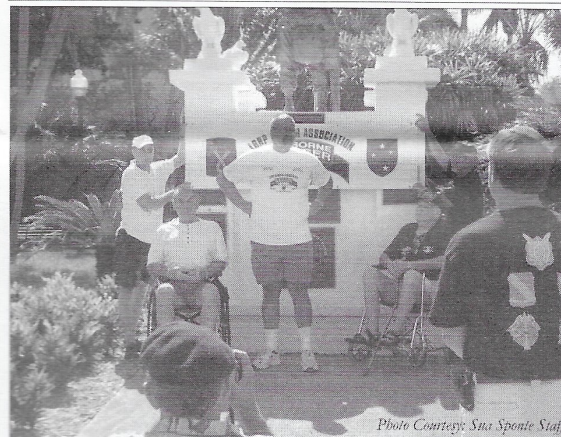
*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte*

*Remembering..... And a moment of silence.*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Association President Tom Nash conducting the Memorial Service at the Airborne Memorial, Fort Myers, FL.*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

*75th Ranger Regiment Association President Steve Crabtree speaks at the Memorial Service.*



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

## Featured Article

### Americal Reconnaissance Commando School Class NO# R7-1-68

By: John "Gunner" Starnes

*I tell the story of Rangers, large and small; Everyone's story is important historically and personally.*

This is a story of Ranger Private First Class Jessie Seamons. Jessie came into the unit from Americal Division Replacement Company. He volunteered for the unit in June 1968, about three days before the Americal Recondo School was to crank up with a new class. Jessie looked like an Italian "Spanky", a little on the soft side of living "if you know what I mean". His shoe size was an 8 and he was 5 foot 11 in height. He smiled a lot and loved to tell jokes. He was an Army Parachutist and had never dropped out of a chopper. In my view he had the heart and was determined to be a Lurp.

When I first met Jessie, he was sitting on the steps of his tin hut "bungalow #7". It was about two huts down towards the shower point. It was 1500 hours and Jessie was placing a 35 pound sandbag into his rucksack. He said, "I don't know if I'm going to make this course, but..." He sure wanted to be a Lurp.

I recall us, "the new Recondo class", lined up in front of the tallest repelling tower in all of Vietnam. It was 1630 hours and we were in two ranks with our low bearing equipment (LBE) and rucksacks, with weapons ready to be checked out that evening. As we stood there we were leaning forward from the weight of the ruck and equipment as we listen to our instructors take center stage one at a time. The instructors lined up in front of us facing the beach; there was sand everywhere you looked and the presence of a foul stench of burning human feces nearby. Five instructors were facing us. They were Ranger Sergeant First Class Howard Slaughter, Recondo Staff Ser-

geant Jerry Schuster, Recondo Staff Sergeant Willie Williams, Recondo Sergeant Clarence Avery, and Recondo Sergeant Charles Haussler. The head instructor, Ranger Slaughter welcomed us to Americal Recondo Class 7-68. He introduced his cadre and then said if he can of assistance in understanding any subject he will take the time to make it clear. He then turned over the class to Recondo SSG Jerry Schuster who gave an overview of the course requirements. Each cadre told us what they were to teach. When it got to Recondo SGT Avery, he said "I'm not going to sugar coat your training. You volunteered to be LURPs... to us you are Pukes! We are here to break you and make you quit! Are there any questions as to what is required of you? .... OK, next formation is at 0430 in the morning right here...just the way you are."

Recondo SSG Schuster called us to attention and dismissed us.

The following morning we were woke up at 0330 hours by the Company Orderly. We who volunteered lit cigarettes, took a swig of water out of our canteens, laced up our boots and donned our LBE and rucks. With rifles in hand, we make it out to the piss tubes, then to the repelling tower. We saw only three instructors; one in a jeep, the others were standing in front of us.

At exactly 0350 hours, we were called to attention and our names recorded prior to training. Just as we did yesterday afternoon.

Our formation was extended, then we performed the daily dozen, finishing up by jumping up on the chin bars and

pulling up seven times with our rucks on...it was still dark. We were given a smoke break as the rest of the class finished up with the chin ups. We marched down to the beach and were told to follow the pace instructor to MAG 13, turn in the blue ticket for a red ticket, then return back to The Combat Center and then the repelling tower. It was seven miles and it had to be done in 1 hour 20 minutes. Anyone who did not complete it in time would be dropped from the course. At 0430, the pace instructor took off and we briskly Recondo walked on the hard packed red clay road for three and a half miles to the halfway point, then back to the Combat Center. At least most of us did.

I remember being told to "watch the mortar holes on the road. Pass it back." However, it was too late. I heard someone groan in pain and out of the corner of my eye I saw the individual limp off the road. When we got back, we had lost two ...bringing our class eleven. A Sp5 Tom Campo and PFC Jessie Seamons. I was saddened to see Jessie repeat

the course, but looking at his foot there was no way he could continue with it swollen that way. One other volunteer dropped from the Recondo walk on day three. He was a loner... I never really caught his name. We graduated with Sgt. Richard Lett, Sgt. Richard Roth, Sgt. Gerald Freeland, Sp4 Cliff Johnson, Sp4 Ronald Larbie, Sp4 Patrick Thiele, Sp4 Steven Franklin, Sp4 John Starnes, PFC Ben Thomas, PFC Larry Mosley.

The next class was right behind ours... Class #8-68. PFC Seamons did not make that class... he was still recovering from his sprained ankle. But he did participate in Class #9-68, passed, and was put on a team. PFC Jessie Seamons became a Lurp. This is his story.



# Us Girls...

By: Sua Sponte Staff



*Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff*

## US GIRLS...2005

There is a lot to be said for being the wife/daughter/friend of a LRRP Ranger.... not the least of which is that every year there is an opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones. This year was no exception if all the smiles on the faces in our group photo are to be believed!

Sua Sponte is publishing this page in the newsletter as a way of acknowledging "Us Girls" and as a way of saying "Thanks!" to some of the wives that work hard each year to see that our reunions are enjoyable for all and, in some cases, make an all year effort at assisting their LRRP Ranger with the smooth operation of this association.

We will also try to include new information from sources such as the VA or any other pertinent source that would effect "Us Girls" or those we care

about.

This is a new addition to the newsletter and we would be grateful for your feedback to let us know what you think. If the responses are positive, we will keep the page.

Our Sua Sponte email address is:

[e51lrp@yahoo.com](mailto:e51lrp@yahoo.com)

or our postal address:

*Sua Sponte*  
PO Box 2544  
Sherman, TX 75091-2544



*What do you think about the "Us Girls" column? Let us hear from you!*



*Photo Credit: Sua Sponte Staff*

*Theresa Manning, Karin Toomey, Marilyn Simpson and Emma Harshaw.*

## KARIN TOOMEY, A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

Karin and Earl Toomey were the hosts for our reunion in Fort Myers. This was planned and set up early last year. When Earl was diagnosed with esophageal cancer late last year and has spent much of the year in and out of the hospital, Karin made time to continue with their plans and to assure that everyone who attended would have a wonderful time. She and Earl certainly succeeded in hosting a successful reunion.

We would also like to say "Thanks" to their son Todd and his lovely wife, Jennifer, for all their assistance before, during and after the reunion.

You are a hard act to follow, Karin.

Girls, the Veteran's Canteen Service of the Department of Veteran's Affairs is a nifty place to shop online. They offer everything from appliances to shoes to jewelry. Have a look! The Veteran's Mall can be found at:

[www.vacanteen.com](http://www.vacanteen.com)

## Us Girls

### AGENT ORANGE and AUTOMATIC VA BENEFITS

It was through word of mouth that many of us learned of the automatic benefits associated with Diabetes Mellitus due to Agent Orange. The following article shows many other conditions that are presumptive disabilities.

This article is a direct excerpt from the VA website at this address..

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/Herbicide/AOno1.htm>

### Vietnam Veterans Benefit From Agent Orange Rules

"They are Vietnam veterans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is concerned they may regard diseases associated with aging, such as prostate cancer, as just another illness rather than as the result of their military service in Southeast Asia.

VA wants these Vietnam veterans to know that they may be eligible for compensation and health care for certain diseases associated with Agent Orange, the defoliant sprayed to unmask enemy hiding places in the jungles throughout Vietnam.

Special health care and compensation benefits are available to the 2.6 million men and women who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, only 3,300 of whom remain in uniform today. Those discharged during that period are the largest group of veterans receiving VA health care and monthly compensation.

Yet a small percentage of their disability claims are for illnesses scientists have listed as being associated with Agent Orange. VA presumes that all military personnel who served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange, and federal law presumes that certain illnesses are a result of that exposure. This so-called "presumptive policy" simplifies the process of receiving compensation for these diseases since VA foregoes the normal requirements of proving that an illness began or was worsened during military service.



Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff

Theresa Manning, Judy Newberry, Emma Harshaw, Linda Seubster and Patricia Fenton.

#### New Faces - New Friends

We were fortunate to be able to say "Welcome" to several new friends this year. Theresa Manning, Judy Newberry, Emma Harshaw, Patricia Fenton, Alice Sausville, and Audrey Knox were a real pleasure. There were many wives and families there, so if we did not have a chance to say "Hello" and get your name, please let us know and we will be more than happy to include you in the next issue.

Based on clinical research, the following diseases are on VA's Agent Orange list of presumptive disabilities: chloracne, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, porphyria cutanea tarda, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea), soft-tissue sarcoma, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy and prostate cancer. A regulation is being developed to add diabetes mellitus.

*(Diabetes mellitus Type II has since been added to the Agent Orange presumptive list and is automatically eligible for pension and medical assistance.)*

In addition, monetary benefits, health care and vocational rehabilitation services are provided to Vietnam veterans' offspring with spina bifida, a congenital birth defect of the spine. A new law authorizes health care and monetary benefits to children of female veterans who served in Vietnam for certain additional birth defects. Those additional benefits under the new law will not be payable to the beneficiaries until Dec. 1, 2001.



Photo Credit: Sua Sponte Staff

#### CAROL SVENSSON Assistant Extraordinaire

Carol Svensson is a lovely lady and will probably be sending me mountains of email because of this picture....but... this is what everyone expects to see any time the advance party gets to a reunion.

For the last several years, Carol has helped her husband Frank with the concessions at every reunion. Between packing everything up, shipping it, picking it up and then folding, stacking and hanging things... I think maybe Frank would be lost without her... and so would we.

Thanks for all your hard work, Carol. It is appreciated.

The Svensson's live in Alta Loma, CA where Carol teaches (in her spare time!).

Kudos, Carol.

Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war also are eligible for a complete physical examination. If a VA physician suspects a disease might be related to Agent Orange, VA will provide free medical care. Those who participate in the examination program become part of an Agent Orange Registry and receive periodic mailings from VA about the latest Agent Orange studies and new diseases being covered under VA policies."

## Families

### Reunion 2005 Welcomes the Families of "John John" Ronald Johnsson and Robert Simpson

By: Sua Sponte Staff

#### Phoebe Sculles

.....

It was our pleasure and honor to welcome Phoebe Sculles and her husband to this year's reunion. Phoebe's brother, "John John" Ronald Jonsson, served with the 196th and was KIA on March 4, 1968.

Phoebe and her husband live in the Fort Myers area and came to all three days of the reunion. Most of her time was spent reminiscing with the guys who served with her brother, laughing with the wives or taking dips in the pool. Mike Inman had pictures of her brother that she had never seen and were shown during the slide show.

"There have been a few tears and a little sadness, but it has been worth it," Phoebe said after attending the Memorial.

***We're glad you came, Phoebe, and hope you know that you are always welcome.***



*Phoebe Sculles with a portion of the LRRP Detachment 196th  
Very back: Tom Nash*

*Back row: Charles Haussler, Jerry Howard, Bob Wheeler, David McLaughlin.*

*Middle row: Gary Copeman, Vic Valeriano, Larry Hogan.*

*Front row: Earl Toomey, Phoebe Sculles, Mike Marr*

#### Marilyn Simpson

.....

It was also an honor and privilege to welcome Marilyn Simpson, the widow of Bob Simpson. Bob was one of the early guys in the 196th and he lost his fight with cancer in 2002. Since that time, Marilyn has been the guest of the West Coast Reunion on a few occasions.

Marilyn spent much of her time visiting with the guys and wives out by the pool or joining a few of us for a trip to the "Largest Flea Market in the World" or at least the biggest one I have ever seen! Her sense of humor and welcoming attitude make everyone around her comfortable.

Marilyn is from Tacoma, Washington.

***We look forward to seeing you again,  
Marilyn. Thanks for coming.***

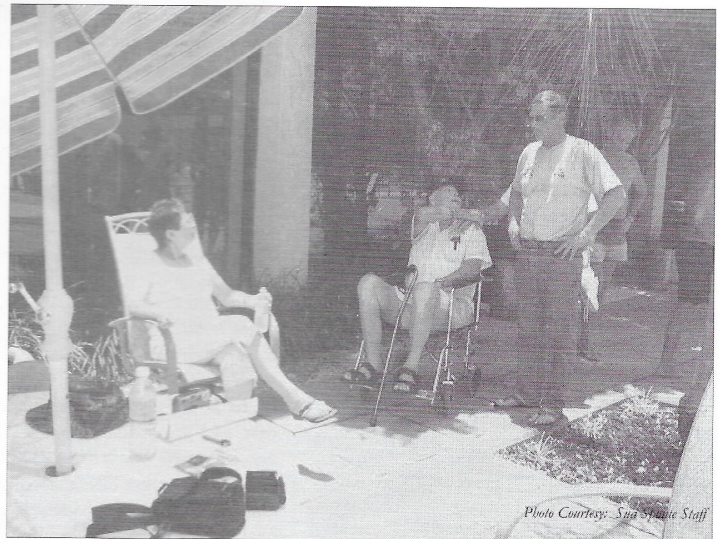


Photo Courtesy: Sua Sponte Staff

*Marilyn Simpson doing what she does best... making everyone around her feel comfortable.*

*Left to right: Marilyn Simpson, Earl Toomey, & Dennis Nye with Mark Brennan and Vic Valeriano in the background.*

## Member Article

### Ranger Reunions

By: John "Gunner" Starnes

I go to reunions in hopes of meeting old Ranger buddies and seeing how they turned out. Sergeant George Beach was a Paratrooper assigned to E Company (Long Range Patrol) 51st Infantry (Airborne). I saw George maybe twice at Chu Lai. Once at the NCO Club and behind the dayroom by the mess hall. Based on his reputation, my mind wouldn't accept him being less than 6'2" based on his deed in the bush. Face-to-face on that day he called me a "leg", all I said was, "43rd Company", he smiled and walked on. That's why I like Sgt. Beach...cut through the BS, say it and be done with. If it's wrong, he won't apologize...just a smile of approval. George Beach was an exceptionally good reconnaissance man, as his service can attest both in and out of uniform.

One of the men on his team returning from a mission, told me that George can smell the Viet Cong in the area, and then George would sneak up on them and capture or kill them. Much like a cat that lays in ambush on an unsuspecting mouse. Anyway, even though George didn't remember me after 36 years...it is all right. I am proud that at one period in time we were associated.

Of the people that I was with in 1968, two of my buddies showed up for the 75th Ranger Rgt and Company Reunion at Seattle/Fort Lewis, WA.

Sergeant Richard "Toy" Lett and Specialist Steven "Bubbles" Franklin showed up and we reminisced over old times and old friends, we drank some beers and got into the fold of our friends and past combat experiences as young men. Bubbles and I linked up in

Bailey, Colorado at an earlier date and had our first reunion since 1968 in 1995. No one knew where Rick Lett was...then Bubbles found him and I invited Rick to the reunion at Seattle. For a half-year, we planned our gathering at 2nd Ranger Battalion like an oncoming mission. We made it happen. For a brief moment again, we were Rangers in the company of Rangers (past and present). Ranger Sgt Richard Lett was so proud he dressed up in his dress green uniform and attended the Ranger Ball with his wife Maureen and son Peter.

Sergeant Richard "Toy" Lett ...Awards and Decorations are:

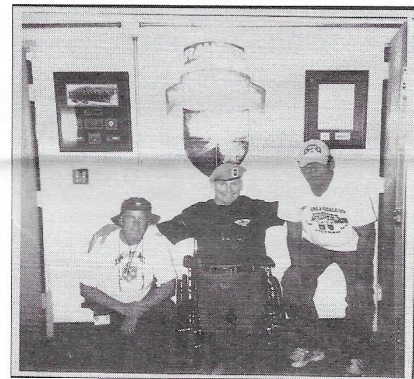
The Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), Parachutist badge, Americal LRRP Recondo device'

His medals and ribbons are:

Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign (4 campaign stars) Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Silver Palm) Medal, Vietnam Service Ribbon, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon (w #1 device), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon. The Infantry Cord and French Cord of Guerra and Army leadership tabs. Two Combat Service Bars and one Service Stripe. Sgt. Lett is authorized the following unit awards: the 196th Infantry Brigade (SEP), 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) with Airborne tab, 75th Ranger Infantry (CARS) Distinctive Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (DSSI), 75th Infantry Distinctive Unit Insignia and (Blue and Red) US Presidential Unit Citations, Vietnamese CGM Valorous Unit Citation.



Ranger Sergeant Richard "Toy" Lett with his wife Maureen at the Seattle Reunion.  
Photo Credit: John Starnes



Rangers Steve "Bubbles" Franklin, Rick "Toy" Lett, John "Gunner" Starnes.  
This picture taken inside the 2nd (RANGER) BN.  
HQS. At Fort Lewis, WA.  
Photo Credit: John "Gunner" Starnes

Rick self admitted himself into the VA Hospital Nursing Home in Washington State after bouts with pneumonia prior to the Seattle Reunion and is getting stronger. He wants to be strong enough to walk unassisted and do a three way freefall as well as attend the future 75th and G Company Reunions. So from all three of us, we wish you all good health and welcome home brothers.

Rangers lead the way!

## President's Column

(Continued from page 3)

According to the Bylaws, the nomination package should contain the following:

*TAB A: A letter of nomination detailing the candidate's qualifications for induction.*

*TAB B: A Ranger career summary.*

*TAB C: A biography, which is limited to two pages, describing the candidate's civilian background, service with the U.S. Armed Forces, and achievements.*

*TAB D: Complete mailing address and phone number of nominee or closest relative, as applicable.*

*TAB E: A proposed citation, which is limited to 25 lines, for display in the RHOF. The citation will have a specified font and will be addressed in the sample packet.*

*TAB F: One 8"x 10" glossy photograph suitable for permanent display."*

Generally speaking, nominations should be introduced at the annual E51 G75 members meeting when the number of members assembled in one place is the greatest. However, nominations can be made to members of the E51 G75 Board at any time. At either time, the Board must approve the nomination. Typically, the nomination package will have to be completed and in the hands of the appropriate representative of the 75thRRA by December for possible induction the following year.

### **75thRRA PROCESS**

There is a 75thRRA evaluation committee, consisting of 3 people, one of whom may be the president of the 75thRRA. During 2004, the committee consisted of the unit director of one of the 75thRRA's member units and two past presidents of the 75thRRA. Committee members will change from year to year.

The categories on which candidates are evaluated are as follows:

1. Nomination Letter;
2. Supporting Letters;
3. Ranger Career;
4. Civilian Career;
5. Citation Narrative;
6. Glossy Photo;
7. Supporting Documents;
8. Ranger Contribution;
9. Ranger Image;
10. Ranger Spirit;
11. KIA in Ranger Service;
12. Ranger in Combat;
13. Ranger in Unit;
14. Ranger in Training.

There is an absolute need to ensure that the nomination package is first class. We have not submitted supporting documents or supporting letters in the past, but should in the future. These supporting materials can be important to the 75thRRA's evaluations, but are, as I understand it, stripped from the nomination packages before being presented to the RHOF Board. Supporting materials would include such things as letters from teammates, COs, top sergeants, etc., and copies of citations, commendations, awards, etc. I also think we need to focus more on ensuring that we are attentive to items 8. through 10., as the rating in each of these will be inferred by the evaluators based on how the other information in the package projects these qualities. Items 11. through 14. refer to the candidate's status.

The process is relatively straightforward. The evaluators rank each candidate submitted on a scale of 10 to 1, 10 being highest, and 1 being lowest, in each of these categories. Then all the points for each candidate in all categories are summed, and the three candidates receiving the greatest number of points in the aggregate are recommended by the 75thRRA for induction to the RHOF Board. Candidates not in the top 3 may be again submitted the following year.

### **RHOF MEMBER EXCEPTION**

Earlier, I mentioned an important exception. It is an alternative process. In addition to the privilege allocated to the 75thRRA member associations to submit candidates for the RHOF through the 75thRRA, each living RHOF member has the right to annually submit one nomination of his own to the RHOF Board, bypassing entirely the 75thRRA process, and its potential logjam.

Prior to 2002, we had no one in this category. For 2003 or 2004, we had one person – Vic Valeriano. We will now have three living members of the RHOF – Vic Valeriano, Danny Jacks, and Tom Robison – for future years. This gives us great flexibility, subject only to the fact that that no more than 3 candidates for the RHOF nominated by living RHOF members, can be considered for induction in any given year. Nonetheless, we are now in the position of being able to submit 3 RHOF candidates from our unit to the 75thRRA, and if all 3 fail to make the 75thRRA's top three, we would still have the option of having our own living RHOF members then submitting the nominations directly to the RHOF Board.

### **RHOF BOARD PROCESS**

Along with the 75thRRA's 3 nominations, and the 3 nominations from living RHOF members, 3 nominations may be submitted to the RHOF Board by each of the following Associations –

- Merrill's Marauders Association;
- Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War Association;
- Ranger Battalions of World War II Association;
- the United States Army Ranger Association, Inc.;
- And each of the major Ranger commands.

(Continued on page 21)

## President's Column

(Continued from page 20)

The RHOF Board can select up to 15 candidates per year for induction, i.e., generally the 15 highest rated candidates determined through the voting process described below. The President of the RHOF Board will convene a separate subcommittee to review nominees submitted by individual members of the RHOF (as mentioned earlier), and narrow the total nominees from RHOF members to 3. The Bylaws describe the RHOF Board as follows:

*"The RHOF Board will be made up of the following voting members:*

- 1) *President (non-voting)*
- 2) *Commander, 75th Ranger Regiment*
- 3) *Command Sergeant Major, 75th Ranger Regiment*
- 4) *Commander, Ranger Training Brigade*
- 5) *Command Sergeant Major, Ranger Training Brigade*
- 6) *President, Merrill's Marauders Association / Representative*
- 7) *President, Ranger Battalions of WW II Association / Representative*
- 8) *President, Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War Association / Representative*
- 9) *President, The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. / Representative*
- 10) *President, The United States Army Ranger Association, Inc. (USARA) / Representative*
- 11) *Board Recorder (non-voting member)."*

Voting will be done by secret ballot using a numbered score for each candidate. At this point, the list of nominees will include both those candidates submitted by the recognized Ranger associations and those candidates submitted by RHOF members. Each voting member of the committee will rate each candidate. In this case, the evaluators rank each candidate submitted on a scale of 5 points to 0 points, with 5 being the

highest score and 0 the lowest. Once voting has been completed, the score for each candidate, i.e., the aggregate number of points, is determined and the candidates will be ranked according to their aggregate score. An "order of merit list" (an "OML") is developed. Regardless of where a candidate is placed on the OML, the minimum total score required for the RHOF Board to accept a candidate for induction is 27 points or higher. The 27 point minimum criteria is fluid, and actually only applies to the extent that there are 15 or fewer potential inductees. If, for example there are only 4 potential inductees with 27 or more points, 27 points will be the cutoff. If, on the other hand, there are more than 15 potential inductees with 27 or more points, the minimum will be raised until there are 15 or fewer potential inductees with the new minimum. Ties have generally been resolved in favor of the candidates.

### CONCLUSION

There's another obvious question here – if living RHOF members can nominate candidates directly to the RHOF Board without going through the potential logjam at the 75thRRA, why not just forego the process of submitting names to the 75thRRA in favor of direct submission by RHOF members? There are several potential answers. One is that we could indeed operate in that way, particularly now that we have three living members of the RHOF. But there is a downside. By submitting our candidates first to the 75thRRA process, we get, in effect, "two bites at the apple," in order to give our candidates a second chance. If our candidates are not among the top 3 in the voting by the 75thRRA, the calendar still provides ample opportunity and time for our RHOF members to submit the necessary submissions. In addition, according to the RHOF, there are about 10 nominations submitted by living RHOF members each year. In fact, the RHOF membership pool is growing, even while the memberships of the older Ranger

associations are declining. Also, by subjecting our candidates to the 75thRRA evaluation process, we are, in the event our candidate does not achieve the requisite number of points in either the 75thRRA or RHOF Board voting processes, able to gather critical qualitative feedback about the nomination package that will enable E51 G75 to better prepare its nomination package the following year. And, in addition, as more candidates are actually inducted into the RHOF, there will be even more living members and there will eventually, under existing rules, be a potential logjam at that level as well, since as mentioned above, there can be no more than 3 nominees from RHOF members inducted in any one year.

At the present time, we have four members of our unit that have been inducted into the RHOF. They are Robert Pruden (Inaugural Class of 1992), Vic Valeriano (Class of 2002), Danny Jacks (Class of 2005), and Tom Robison (Class of 2005). We have nominated two others, and we are actively working on securing their induction. They are Earl Toomey and George Beach. Not a bad LRRP/Ranger team, if you ask me. But, we certainly have other members of the unit – officers, NCOs, and team members who also deserve our consideration. If you believe that a teammate, or someone else from the unit deserves to be considered, let me or another officer of the Association, or a member of the Board know.

If anyone has any questions, let me know.

**TOM NASH**



## Where Are These Guys?

# WHERE ARE THESE GUYS?

By: Sua Sponte Staff

### HELP!

Do you know where any of these guys are? Do you remember where they were from?

Over the past few months we have located several members of the unit that had never been found. They had no idea we had an association, and believe me, many of them were so excited it made all the effort worthwhile.

We need to locate these guys and bring them back into the fold. Please send any information you can think of regarding them to:

Jerry Schuster  
PO Box 2544  
Sherman, TX 75091-2544  
903-870-7999  
e51lrp@yahoo.com

Acquire, Ron  
Adams, Edmund  
Alauser, Frank  
Alexander, John H.  
Alexander, James E. "Moose"  
Baumfeld (Baumfield), Jeffery M.  
Bishop, John F.  
Bjornquist, ??? SSG.  
Blankenship, Tony  
Boling, Stephen P. "Rope"  
Branham, Danny  
Brown, Albert R.  
Brown, John M.  
Brown, Gary W. "Pinky"  
Brown, Mike  
Burrell, Joseph T. "Cherry"  
Carter, Donald F.  
Chalmers, Santos S.  
Cipkar, David P.  
Clark, Ralph C.  
Clark, Robert C.  
Collins, Lester  
Cross, Al F.  
Cunningham, Keith A.

Curran, Paul J.  
Dean, Douglas T.  
Deaton, Bobbie "Red"  
DeLowe, Delbert  
Denney, Donald L.  
Dietrich, Kenneth "Marlene"  
Dillon, Curtis W.  
Erskine, Charles E.  
Evans, John H.  
Ferguson, Ronnie  
Finrock, Calvin B.  
Flores, Angel E.  
Fultz, Christopher W.  
Gardner, Lloyd B. "Hose"  
Gietzen, William R.  
Gonzales, Dave  
Gordon, David R. "Pot"  
Grimble, Ted D.  
Grimes, Raymond  
Hamer, James M. "Nails"  
Harris, Winston V.  
Harris, Harry L. II "Fourth"  
Hayes, Joseph M. "Sperm"  
Hazelton, Richard  
Helms, Ed  
Hendley, Alan G.  
Jenkins, Larry  
Jones, Martin O. "Boxcar"  
Kiralay, Laszlo  
Landers, Herb  
Landis, Harold  
Lopez, Juan  
MacDonald, Ivan T. "Hamburger"  
Martinez, Ramon  
Matyjasik, John E. "Pole"  
McGee, John  
McKinnon, Richard L.  
McWhorter, James  
Metcalf, Dennis M.  
Miller, Lonnie D. "Stumbler"  
Mitchell, Robert L.  
Mitchell, Robert A.  
Mouton, Leroy A.  
Nagakura, Leo T. "Ming"  
Nelson, Michael J. "Ozzie"  
O'Neal, James  
O'Reilly, William  
Paige, Stanley C.  
Parson, David E. "Preacher"

Pellitere, ??? SSG.  
Plendle, William E. "Piper"  
Price, Wayne L.  
Price, Dick  
Reed, Larry E.  
Sanchez, Adalberto  
Sawyer, ??? SFC  
Sechrist, Robert E. "Fats"  
Settles, David M.  
Sexton, Steve  
Sharp, Leonard C.  
Stevens, Charles  
Stewart, ??? Lt.  
Thompson, Jerry E.  
Townes, Richard  
Unterzuber, William H.  
Wall, Alan S.  
Webber, Robert  
Wheeler, ??? Lt.  
Williams, Roger, A.  
Williams, Howard  
Woodard, James L. "Slim"

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Want to keep up to date on what's happening with the association? Want to see photos-- historical, in-country, reunions, special events? How about feature articles with up to date news and editorials? All these and more can be found on our web-site.

Have a photo you would like to see on the site? Contact the webmaster address on the page.

[www.lrrpranger.org](http://www.lrrpranger.org)

## LRRP Ranger Ring and Membership

### LRRP RANGER RING

#### How to Order Your LRRP Ranger Ring

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  
1-734-677-0944 ext. 207

Or email Sharon at:  
[srobison@kelleher-inc](mailto:srobison@kelleher-inc)



## MEMBERSHIP

**YES!**

I want to renew my membership for '05!

Enclosed is my payment of \$20.00 per year!

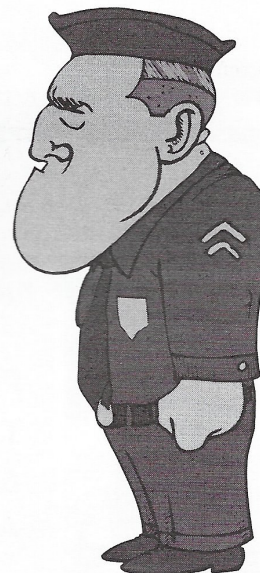
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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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The 196th LRRPs, E51st  
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

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# DUES TIME!

Paying dues is a great way to support the association and help pay the bills. All of us want to continue the association as long as possible and keep the newsletter going. We can do this with your continued help.

Snip this off, fill out the back, add a check and mail to:

Frank Svensson  
Treasurer  
6964 Berkshire Ave.  
Alta Loma, CA 91701

Handwritten notes: 3430, 754, 1510