



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Second Quarter 2009

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Victor Diestro Valeriano

Ranger Hall of Fame
2002



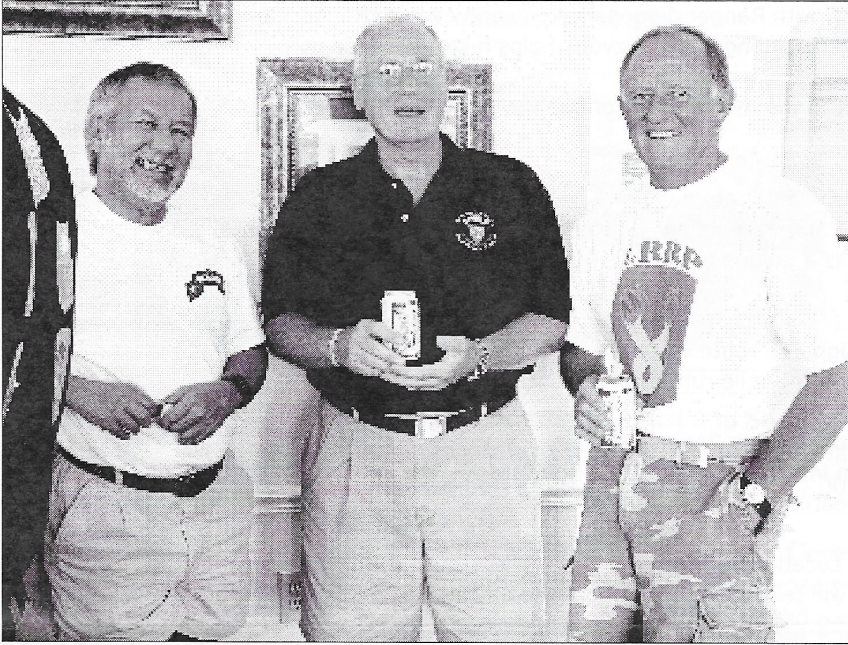
02/28/1942 to 02/19/2009

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

MEMBER ARTICLES

Victor Valeriano

By: Tom Nash



Vic sharing a laugh at the 2007 Reunion with Joe Meinike and Larry Hogan.

"The truly brave are soft of heart and eyes, And feel for what their duty bids them do."

Lord Byron

I will always remember my first meeting with Vic. I had just reported to the HQ of the LRRPs of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and reported to Earl Toomey who was acting 1st SGT. He introduced me and the other new volunteers to Vic and the other original 4 members of the group. At the time, I didn't recognize his basic shyness. As I got to know him, I was allowed inside that veneer and became, forever, a friend. When I left the service, I did not look back. For many reasons, not the least of which was the inhospitable era for soldiers during the Vietnam War.

I think it was more than serendipity that a chance business encounter with his brother many years later led to my reuniting with Vic in Washington, DC where he took me (for the first time) to the Wall, where he showed me the names of Solomon Kalua and Danny McLaughlin, who had lost their lives on Vic's last LRRP patrol. He had tears in his eyes. We attended the 196th LIB Association Reunion that weekend, and that reunited our friendship in ways that words cannot communicate. We saw each other regularly at reunions, and he drew me into his life, and into his battle with the VA. He stayed regularly at my home and traveled with me and Dianne to Maine for quiet weekends with friends and family. He was a quiet man; one who understood and harnessed that

Sergeant Victor Valeriano is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exceptional valor during participation in armed conflict. In numerous encounters with the enemy from December 1966 through January 1968, and in particular, on January 20, 1968, Sergeant Valeriano displayed uncommon courage and outstanding leadership qualities. While leading a 6-man LRRP unit in Thien Phouc on January 20, 1968, Sergeant Valeriano and his men came under a withering crossfire from a superior enemy force which quickly resulted in every member of the team being wounded, with three ultimately dying from their wounds. Unable to withdraw his team due to the crossfire, Sergeant Valeriano, though wounded himself and the only remaining effective fighting element of his team mounted a defense of his team's position, successfully repelling both a frontal and flanking assault. During the ensuing fire-fight Sergeant Valeriano returned a number of enemy grenades thrown into his position. His tenacious defense of his team's position eventually caused the enemy element to withdraw. Sergeant Valeriano's courageous actions and steadfast commitment to his team saved the lives of the three remaining members. His conduct reflects the highest standards of the Ranger tradition. RTLW

of which man is capable in times of war, yet forever in search of peace and calm.

He was my brother. And he was blood as certain as if we had had the same mother. His loss pains me, and forever diminishes me.

"Cowards die many times before their deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once. Of all the wonders that I yet have heard, It seems to me most strange that men should fear;

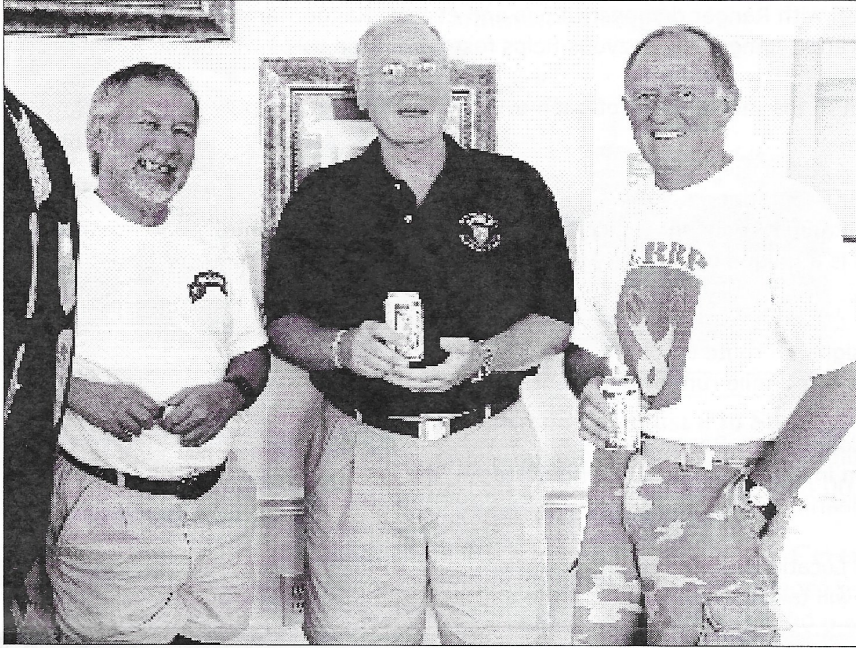
Seeing that death, a necessary end, Will come when it will come."

William Shakespeare,
"Julius Caesar", Act 2 Scene 2

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Fort Benning Rendezvous Events

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, Feb. 22, 2009) — More than 1,000 Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment will conduct a mass tactical airborne operation here to kick-off Ranger Rendezvous, August 3-6.

Rendezvous is a unit tradition to bring the entire Regiment together for the Regimental change of command. The days leading up to the ceremony are filled with Ranger demonstrations and events. Ranger families and veterans traditionally attend the event as well. Overall, Ranger Rendezvous helps foster spirit de corps within the Ranger community.

Several events during the week are open to the media. A list of open events and a brief description of each follows.

Monday, August 3

5 p.m. Mass Tactical Airborne Jump Fryar Drop Zone

More than 1,000 Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment will conduct an airborne operation onto Fryar Drop Zone. Rangers will be in full combat gear. This is a unique opportunity to observe such a massive airborne operation.

Tuesday, August 4

6 a.m. Regimental Physical Training Designated route on post

About 1,000 Rangers will participate in a three-mile run for Regimental physical training.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Ranger Stress Shoot Competition Range area

Ranger teams compete for the best team in a stress-shoot training obstacle. The event tests Rangers on their combat skills including marksmanship and clearing obstacles.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ranger Sports Various Locations

A variety of Ranger sports competitions will take place throughout the day including combatives/boxing, football, softball and tug-of-war.

11 a.m. Distinguished & Honorary Members National Infantry Museum

of the 75th Ranger Regiment Ceremony

Distinguished and honorary members will be inducted into the Distinguished and Honorary Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Ceremony. Distinguished members are inducted for their outstanding accomplishments while assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment. Honorary members are inducted for their outstanding support to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Wednesday, August 5

1:30 p.m. Ranger Hall of Fame Induction National Infantry Museum

Distinguished and honorary members will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Distinguished members are inducted to honor and preserve the contributions of the most extraordinary U.S. Rangers in American History. Honorary induction is in recognition of extraordinary contributions to Ranger units, the Ranger Memorial Foundation, or the Ranger community.

Thursday, August 6

9 a.m. 75th Ranger Regiment National Infantry Museum

Change of Command Ceremony

Colonel Michael E. Kurilla assumes command of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Colonel Richard D. Clarke during a formal ceremony on the National Infantry Museum field. Kurilla is a former 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment commander.

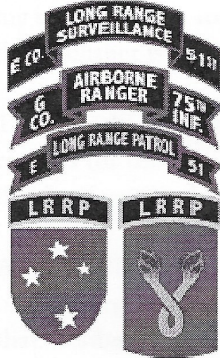
Saturday, August 8,

75th Ranger Regiment Banquet, Iron Works in Columbus, 6:00 p.m. Tickets through 75th Association: <http://www.75thrra.com/>

Important Reunion News

Association Hotel Information

By: *Sua Sponte Staff*



Hilton Garden Inn
Columbus, Georgia



See Our Website for Last Minute Reunion or Updated Information

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

Reunion Dates: Thursday August 6 to Sunday August 9, 2009

Here at long last is the information regarding the . Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 1500 Bradley Lake Boulevard, Columbus, GA 31904 Tel: 706-660-1000 Special Rates: \$ 84.00 per night.

The Official Date for the RHOF Ceremony

This special rate will be honored beginning August 4, 2009, for those who want to get in early for the RHOF Induction that takes place on Wednesday, August 5th at 1:30 p.m. at the National Infantry Museum in Fort Benning..

TO GET THE \$ 84.00 RATE

Reservations: Call the hotel directly at 706-660-1000 to make your reservation. Be sure to mention that you are making a reservation for the Ranger Reunion. For the special \$84.00 Rate, RESERVATIONS HAVE TO MADE BY JULY 7, 2009.

Hospitality Room

The Cascade Room at the hotel will be in operation Wednesday August 5th through Sunday. Refreshments provided by the Association.

Activities

We will have our (E/51-G/75) banquet and auction on Friday 8:00 p.m., August 7, 2009. The 75th Ranger Regiment banquet is scheduled for Saturday August 8, 2009 at The Ironworks Conference Center. You will need to register for this activity with the 75th Association.

Official Annual Business Meeting Notice

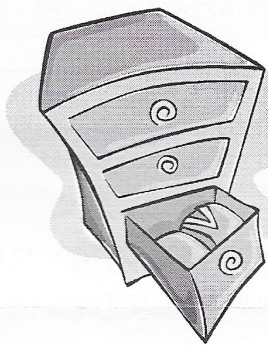
Pursuant to Article Three Section One and Four of our Association bylaws, our Annual Association Meeting will be held at Saturday 8:00 a.m. in the Cascade Boardroom at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 1500 Bradley Lake Boulevard, Columbus, GA 31904. If you need to contact any officer or board member, please use the information within the inset located on page 2 of this issue of *Sua Sponte*.

GUEST POETRY

By Michael D. Monfrooe- L Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry

The Drawer

Every so often I go through this old drawer,
Bringing back memories of when I fought in the war.
Here is my beret; I wore it with such pride,
It meant I was special, special inside.



Here are my dog tags; I always kept them around,
Still taped together so as to not make a sound.
These are my blood wings; I was one of the best,
I showed them off proudly pinned on my chest.

The Air Medal we got for going in hot,
The Purple Heart for getting shot.
Other medals for the sacrifices I gave,
A picture of Joe who died being brave.

Then there was the Doc who would never stay down,
I can still see his blood staining the ground.
Here is my P-38; I opened many a can,
Only in the 'Nam would you eat canned spam.

Here is a picture of Sgt Garr,
On his second tour he won the Silver Star.
And there was Irish with his hair so red,
I remember the ambush and then he was dead.

That's the Lieutenant; he wasn't a bad guy,
He was the first guy I ever saw die.
I remember the day I returned from the war,
And put my past in this dresser drawer.

Editor's Note: Michael Monfrooe's Poetry was shared in Bemidji, Minnesota this last year with the Traveling Wall Ceremony. Mike lives in the Bemidji area. His poetry can be found on the world-wide-web at: <http://geocities.com/michaeldmonfrooe/>

MEMBER ARTICLE

TIME

TIME...

By: Ed Carey

passes slowly, it runs out, it drags our days on endlessly, stands still. There is a lot to be said about time. This is my second article for our newsletter. The first was a bit more upbeat but never made it to the publisher. Oops, the publisher is me. I have agreed to publish the newsletter so others may enjoy their retirements.

Time caught up with me. While I waited here in my somewhat tastefully decorated office I lost track of time. The reasons for the delay in receiving your newsletter are mostly mine and the result of a lack of communication. For that I offer to each and everyone who reads our newsletter my sincere and heartfelt apology.

A few years ago as I read a column by Tom Nash I thought about you. All of you. Those I knew, have forgotten or never met. I read a quote that explained why we gather together. Not to tell stories. But we are allowed to do that. Rather it was to see those who hold our own heritage. To visit those who shared our experience. We must admit our experience was rather unique!

The final straw! George Beach was to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. How in the world could I miss that? My former team mate. The "short" to Gary "Buffalo" Gentry being the big. An easy decision for me. Attend and reconnect.

There was some trepidation on my part. PTSD had caused me to put many memories away where I couldn't access them. I was a little apprehensive. However I actually was excited to attend. The excitement built until I finally arrived in Columbus. I entered the hospitality room and was greeted immediately by James Casey. What a relief. I was recognized by a team mate! There is more to the story of that first trip for me. The relief was overwhelming. The treatment by all of you in attendance was... words fail.

My point is that those of you who read this and have never attended a reunion must make an effort to come to one before time catches up to you. Sit down and share not only stories but those who held our essence close to themselves. What happened to Gary? Why doesn't he come to reunions? The gulfs that may exist should be narrowed or closed. Where is Ken Caswell?

You get my drift. Someone knows where these two are as well as others. Anyone in Illinois know Ken? Call him and tell him to get his skinny butt to a reunion.

Our Secretary needs the help of each of us to keep our roster timely. We must be proactive in locating, contacting and urging all to attend. Naturally time has taken a toll. Aging can cause difficulty in travel; the economy prohibits the expense. Perhaps in the future there will be a reunion more centrally located that will make the travel easier on us and our budgets.

Again, I look forward to seeing you in Columbus this year in and the future.

Best regards to all,
Ed "Dealer" Carey

Editor's Note: A special thanks to Jerry Schuster for his contributions as editor of Sua Sponte. From Sherman Texas, to Colorado and Ed Carey, via Bemidji, is noteworthy.

MEMBER ARTICLE-MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBERED

Honoring graves: Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day Project

Stephen "Tower" Johnson

Bemidji Pioneer -

Visitors to local cemeteries can sometimes find flags, stars, headstones or even metal foot plaques denoting citizens who have honorably served in the United States military.

Thanks to Ted Bogda, a Vietnam veteran Marine Corps officer, it is much easier to recognize those who have served their country. Bena resident Bogda has obtained more than 500 veteran star flag-holders and requisitioned and constructed 170 foot plaques for American Indian gravesites scattered throughout the Leech Lake Reservation.

I heard of his project and asked for an invitation to find out first hand how he was accomplishing his volunteer effort. He called me last week and took me to the Onigum area, just east of Walker. In the back of his pickup he had broken cement bags that had been donated by Home Depot of Bemidji, shovels, framing boards, large bottles of water for mixing and a shiny metal foot plaque in its cardboard container sent from the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. The first place we stopped was at the Onigum Episcopal Cemetery where Bogda constructed a cement footing for the foot plaque.

At the second site, the Onigum Old Agency Cemetery, Bogda pointed out 13 foot plaques he had placed. Corp. Munnell, a World War I soldier killed in France, was listed as dead at the age of 19. Bogda pointed out that school records indicated he was born in 1905 which suggests he died at age 14.

At our third site, Old Onigum Traditional Cemetery, Bogda repaired a Leech Lake Honor Guard notice board.

Bogda also visually inspected its flag post, one of 99 flag posts he helped build at gravesites and on Leech Lake Reservation community buildings.

Bogda said if he can piece together bits of information like the birthplace, date of birth and death, he can get cross reference numbers needed to complete the necessary paperwork for getting the veterans' markers.

He said one deceased soldier's birthplace was listed as Round Lake, Minn. From his birth and death dates with place of birth, he could not, for some reason, access information needed for the foot plaque. Not until a conversation with the later elder, Liz Boyd, and his wife, Esther, did he find out that Squaw Lake was once known in the past as Round Lake. With that information, he could cross reference the new place of birth with other entry numbers, which matched needed data for the veteran's metal plaque.

Not until after the Korean War did the government list one's ethnic background on service forms; soldiers were designated as either Caucasian or Negro. This practice made it difficult to identify Indian veterans. Bogda said a letter from President Grover Cleveland thanked 24 Indian veterans who served in World War I. To this date, Bogda has found 50 on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Among others, he credits the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs of Bemidji, county Veteran Service Officers, area funeral homes and the Minnesota Historical Society with helping him identify veterans and obtain markers earned by those deceased veterans.

Bogda said family members seeking eligibility for grave markers and other information should contact a county Veteran Service Office listed in county government telephone book pages. In this area, these include Julie Harris in Bemidji at 333-4177, julieharris@co.beltrami.mn.us; Faye Dudley in Walker at 218-547-1340 Ext. 314, faye.dudley@co.cass.mn.us; Harry Hutchins in Bagley at 218-694-6618, harry.hutchins@co.clearwater.mn.us; John Lombard at 218-732-3561, jlombard@co.hubbard.mn.us; and Randall Carlson at 218-327-2858, randall.carlson@co.itasca.mn.us.



Rendezvous 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Note: this is for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and you might want to use this or part of this registration which includes the banquet Saturday evening at the Iron Works in Columbus

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

2009 RANGER RENDEZVOUS (REUNION)

2 THRU 8 AUGUST, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, August 2-8, 2009.

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests ;*(by registering your guests; you are helping to defray the overall cost of the reunion. The Beer Garden, transportation, speakers, munchies, hospitality rooms, activities, are all expenses to the Association. We try to make the reunion break even, guest registration helps).

NAMES: _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$40.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # _____ @ \$35.00 \$ _____

TOTAL PAID _____ \$ _____

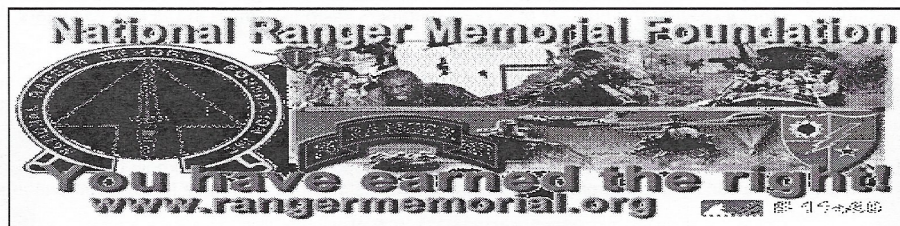
Please make checks payable to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75thRRA).
Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 10970

Baltimore, MD 21234

Banquet Guest Speakers

THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2009. SPEAKERS WILL BE RETIRED FEDERAL JUDGE EUGENE SULLIVAN and JANIS NARK, LTC. (Ret.), who served as a registered nurse in the Army, including a tour in Vietnam. Serving in the Army Reserve she was recalled to active duty for nine months during Desert Storm.



Rendezvous 75th Ranger Regiment Association

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2 THRU 8 AUGUST, 2009

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Gold Star Flag

Lutz hopes to see the Department of Defense and Congress adopt just such a national symbol, the Honor and Remember flag, which was unveiled on Memorial Day at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Va. The flag's design, a red and white field with a gold star and red flame, represents the honor due the nearly 2 million men and women who have died in service to this country since the American Revolution... **(from previous page)**



ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

New Columbus Rendezvous Tee's

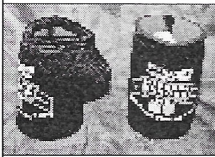
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Order early and have all your LRRP gear at the ready...

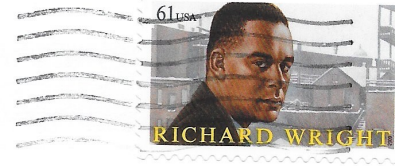
For prices and ordering:

www.lrrpranger.org

or phone (909) 989-8461



Sua Sponte
10433 Juneberry Rd NW
Bemidji, MN 56601



"of their own accord"

Quarterly Newsletter of
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LRPs, and G-75th Rangers



www.lrrpranger.org

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Steve Franklin Photo

G/75 (RANGER) TOC, Chu Lai - 1969,70