

THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

NUMBER 14

July 1994

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings All:

It's just a few short weeks to the annual 1st Cav. Reunion. This year we'll return to Orlando. As those of you know who attended the 1988 Reunion there, the Orlando area has lots to see and do for both adults and kids. I know that several of you are planning to spend a week or more in Orlando so you can make a real vacation out of the trip. That sounds like a great idea to me.

This year we'll elect a new slate of officers for the LRRP-Ranger Association. As Bonnie Echterling notes later in this newsletter, any sustaining member is eligible to vote in the election, either by mail or in person during the Annual Business Meeting at Orlando. We are really fortunate that so many of you have volunteered to run for election this year.

After four years as your president, I'm going to follow Mike Echterling's good example and step down. Mike understood that in a volunteer organization like ours, it's important to allow everyone an opportunity to contribute. Mike contributed by forming our organization and taking it through its infancy. I contributed by creating the Charter and By-Laws of the organization and taking the organization through its adolescence. Now it's up to Bob Gill and the rest of the new slate of officers to make our organization better during their watch.

I'm very glad that Bob Gill

agreed to run for president this year. Bob has been a great help to me and to our organization as an active worker for many years and as your vice-president for the past two years. For those of you who don't know Bob, let me assure you that he will be a wonderful president for us. Bob is bright (for a former Infantryman), hard-working (for a fireman and civil servant), and has a great sense of humor (for a Minnesotan). Bob has worked hard for us and he has always been there to lend a helping hand whenever and wherever needed. Most importantly, Bob really cares about our members and our organization. As long as we have folks of Bob's quality who are willing to serve, the LRRP-Ranger Association will continue to be a group that we can all enjoy and be proud of.

I want to thank all of you for the chance to serve you for the past four years. You were an exceptional group of men 26 years ago and you are an exceptional group of men, wives, kids, and friends now. I also want to thank all of you, guys and gals, who volunteered to serve as officers and as workers for the LRRP-Rangers over the past four years. In the bad old days in Vietnam, we were all volunteers and we all knew that we had to depend upon each other to survive. Now, although we're back in the land of the big PX, we're still a volunteer organization and we still have to depend upon each other, this time to support the organization and to make it better. I was indeed fortunate to have so many of you who were

willing and able to help. I hope that all of you will pitch in to give Bob Gill and his team all the support that they'll need during their term of office.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude, and the gratitude of all of us, to Mike and Bonnie Echterling and George Paccarelli. They were the three key people who located all of us and who started our organization. Those three wonderful people changed our lives, helped us deal with the bitterness about the Vietnam aftermath that we had carried around for so many years, and put us in touch with so many former LRRP-Ranger that we are now pleased and proud to count as good friends. I know that being part of the LRRP-Ranger family has enriched my life. I think that all of us who have attended the annual reunions or local mini-reunions really know how much better our lives have been since that first LRRP-Ranger reunion in 1987. And so, while words can never fully express the debt that all of us owe to Mike, to Bonnie, and to George, my last official act as your president will be to thank them for all that they have done and continue to do for us. Thanks, guys, for a job well done.

Mike Brennan

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear LRRP/Rangers,

Once again we are in the process of planning for the 1994 reunion in Orlando, Florida. The 1st Cav. has set up headquarters at the Hyatt Orlando. We will also make every attempt to center our LRRP/RANGERS HQ at the same location. This year is once again an election year for new officers of the chapter. To have voting rights you must be a current dues paying member of the LRRP/RANGER Chapter. If you would like to vote and help

support your chapter all you must do is become a current dues paying member. (Dues are \$15.00) If you can't make the reunion you may use an absentee ballot however, it would be great to see you at the reunion.

Once again we are having a raffle to help raise funds to sponsor our chapter. Each year this task becomes more difficult. I try to find items that will have value and desire. This year there are two items. First prize is an authentic autographed Pittsburgh Penguins jersey signed by Mario Lemieux and second prize is an authentic autographed helmet signed by Mario Lemieux. Both items come with a letter from the Penguins verifying the autograph. I am enclosing 5 tickets to each member cost per ticket is \$2.00 each. I ask for each member to sell only 5 tickets if possible. If only 50 percent of the membership sold the 5 tickets we would profit \$2500.

We also have a good selection of merchandise for only the members of the LRRP/RANGERS:

Merchandise available:

T-shirts - Black (Decal) - size L, XL - \$11.00. XXL - \$12.00

T-shirts - Black or White (silk screen) size M, L, XL - \$10.00. XXL - \$11.00.

Sweat Shirts (black decal) - size L - \$16.50. XL - \$17.50. XXL - \$18.50.

Hats - Black winter type - \$10.00.

Unit Logo Belt Buckles - (Brass) \$20.00.

Unit logo decals - \$1.75.

Unit patches - (cloth) - \$4.25.

Unit Crest pins - \$4.00

Unit logo bumper stickers - \$1.75.

Unit logo decals (window) - \$1.75.

Unit Rings silver \$35.00

New item - cloth patch 5 inch across Ranger crest like the one we had in Vietnam \$4.00 This really looks good thanks to George Paccarelli!

Most items under 2 lbs. can be sent for \$2.90 postage. New items will be coming!

When paying dues or purchasing merchandise please make checks out to "LRRP/RANGERS". Any questions about anything in the letter just call me. I consider our unit to be the best that ever served in Vietnam. I hope you all feel the same way and help us out in what ever way you can. If you need any reassuring please come to the reunion you'll find many friends.

Thanks,
Howard

Howard Shute
111 E. Miller Ave.
Munhall, Pa. 15120
412-461-9120

LRRP/RANGER BALLOT

Please mail in ballots to Bonnie Echterling a good two weeks before the Reunion August 10 - 14, 1994. You must be current with your membership dues and you can mail the money with this ballot if necessary.

These are the candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee.

PRESIDENT

_____ ROBERT GILL

VICE PRESIDENT

_____ STANLEY FREEBORN
_____ DOUGLAS PARKINSON

SECRETARY

_____ BONNIE ECHTERLING

TREASURER

_____ HOWARD SHUTE

LOCATING NEWS

We have found a new means to try to locate those with no information. And we are trying hard to locate as many as possible. Please go thru those orders for us and check it against the roster. Please send us this information and if you can remember where someone might be from we need that also. If you want to check on the progress on someone please call Mike or Bonnie Echterling. It may be that you can make a few phone calls for us to help locate that person. We need your help! If you need a new roster let Bonnie know and we only ask for postage and photocopying charges. Rufus Bacon has been located. He served 1966-1967. Welcome Rufus!

SERGEANT AT ARMS

_____ WILLIAM HAND
_____ DAVID McWILLIAMS

BOARD MEMBERS

Vote for two Board Members, past Presidents serve on the Board automatically and they are Michael Brennan and Michael Echterling.

_____ LAWRENCE CURTIS
_____ LEE FIX
_____ WALTER SEYMOUR
_____ RODOLFO TORRES

PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME

Please remove this page from the newsletter and mail it to Bonnie Echterling, 626 Lincoln St., Lowell, IN 46356. If you are attending the reunion you may vote at our business meeting. There is an empty space after each Office for write in candidates.

REUNION NEWS

The 47th Annual 1st Cav. Reunion is at the Hyatt Orlando Hotel in Kissimmee, Fl., August 10 - 14, 1994. For hotel reservations call 1-800-446-8523 and specify the 1st Cav. and what unit you served in. For registration for the reunion you must fill out the form in the "Saber", the 1st Cav. newspaper, and mail it in or if it's close to reunion time take it with you to register there, but you will stand in a long line. For a copy of the form if you do not receive the paper call Bob Gill 612-933-2953 or Bonnie Echterling 219-696-6589. Remember you will have to join the 1st Cav Assoc. if you are not a member already. The main sign ups for us are the Sat. Lunch marked Ranger/LRRP which is \$13.00 each, the families are very welcome and the breakfast on Sunday, 'August 14. Final business is covered and all say good-bye. Hospitality suite is still pending.

LRRP/RANGER TAPS

Tragically, on May 15, 1994, Gary and Deb Lorenz lost their youngest son. In response to our unit sending flowers and cards, we received this Thank you.

"We cannot express our deep gratitude over your warm thoughts, flowers and cards. Keep us in your prayers."

Gary Lorenz Family

Do to the lack of space we can not include other committee reports or office reports, but Rudy Torres is working on a project to obtain information of interest on each LRRP/RANGER so you each will be sure that this is the person you remember and what he's been up to with his life. Think on this.



Bonnie Echterling

626 Lincoln
Lowell, IN 46356