

# THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

NUMBER 15

November 1994

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

I have finally finished my first report as your new president. I am unsure why this has been so difficult to write, but prior to getting to the good (and important) stuff, I would like to share with you some personal thoughts.

I am extremely proud and flattered to have been selected as your president. Our organization is made up of the most remarkable people sharing common values and experiences that I have ever known, and the opportunity to be your president is, indeed, humbling.

Secondly, I feel somewhat apprehensive to follow Mike Echterling and Mike Brennan. They have done such an outstanding job and given so much of themselves to form, organize, and lead our chapter, over the past eight years. So, I ask for your patience, support, and involvement to help me provide the same good leadership.

On to Orlando! It was a wonderful reunion in which the LRRP/Rangers continued to set new heights (literally) and share a few days with old and new friends. Attending their first reunion were: John and Louise Fort, Robert and Cathy Ankony and children, Robert Ramos, step-son, Julio, and brother-in-law George. Members attending their first reunion are always uncertain about becoming involved, yet their presence adds so much to the reunion experience for everyone. For those considering attending, I

want to assure you this organization exists for you and nothing is more exciting than meeting first time attendees. Robert, John, and Robert: I hope that you and your families enjoyed this experience, and I look forward to seeing you at future reunions.

We were honored to have John May of the 2nd Florida Cavalry, 18th Cavalry Regiment as our guest of honor at our unit luncheon this year. John's organization recreates the dress and equipment of past Ranger units, and the presentation made to us was that of a Ranger in the 1830-1840 time period. Rangers had to buy their own gear back then, but went home when they got tired of military life. Jim Ross then gave a very touching tribute to his mother (in attendance) and to all our moms who waited, supported, and prayed for us when we were in Viet Nam, and stood by us upon our return as we struggled to put our lives back in order. Thank you, Jim.

We also conducted the election of offices. Officers for 1994-1995 are:

President	Robert Gill
Vice-President	Stan Freeborn
Secretary	Bonnie Echterling
Treasurer	Howard Shute
Right at Arms	David McWilliams
Board Members	Larry Curtis
	Al Voelkel
	Mike Echterling
	(ex-president)
	Mike Brennan
	(ex-president)

Our organization thanks all the candidates who were willing to

run or completed terms of offices, especially Mike Brennan, Lee Fix, and Rudy Torres.

Our grand prizes obtained by Howard Shute were a Mario LaMieaux autographed hockey helmet, which was won by Lacy Varesko, daughter of Jon and Margie, (Lacy wouldn't let anyone touch the helmet) and a Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey jersey won by Rex McElroy.

Outside of a wonderful luncheon, hot tub, and the incoming president's speech, the reunion highlight may have been Ricky's World's Highest Vertical Accelerator. Jon Varesko and David McWilliams (who else) led a group of our more foolish members to this inverted slingshot that fires you 200 feet into the air in two seconds. This stuff is on video tape, and I'll write more about it in the Saber article.

Reunion attendees were:

Jon, Marge, & Lacy Varesko, Howard Shute, Dave Klimek, Bill Weaver, Jim Massengill, Bruce & son, Wayne Judkins, Chuck, Sue & Darryl Windham, Jim Ross with Mom & Ellen, Tom Campbell, Doug Parkinson, Al and Karen Voelkel, Don and Bonnie Roberts, Dave & Patty McWilliams, Larry & Jean Curtis, Danny, Joanna & Andrew Svoboda, Doug, Debbie, Ben & Holly Matze, Leonardo and Kerry Rabago, Bob Gill, Stan Freeborn, Mike Brennan, Robert and Julio Ramos, John and Louise Fort, Ed and Luci Bailey, Forrest Decker, Bob and Cathy Ankony with Catherine, Bobby, and Mikey, and Chuck Donahoo.

I missed the deadline for the October Saber article, but I won't miss December's. The 1995 reunion will be in Killeen, Texas on August 9-13, 1995, and the 1996 reunion is scheduled for Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 31- August 4, 1996.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving in a country at peace!

Sincerely,  
Bob Gill

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear LRRP/Rangers,

Merchandise available:

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

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

Unit logo decals - \$1.75.

Unit patches - (cloth) - \$4.25.

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.

Watches with unit logo-\$35.00.

I have ordered more sweat shirts and unit crest pins. And I'm looking into more hats, white and black.

When paying dues or purchasing merchandise please make checks out to "LRRP/RANGERS".

Our current dues paying membership has also grown to 74. Each year we find more men and have more men become an active member. Dues are \$15.00 per year.

Next year we will return to Ft. Hood, if anyone can find time to come to the reunion it will be worth your wild. Often the first step is the most difficult but once you do you'll return again and again.

Last I am asking any member that would like to donate or have any idea of what our next raffle should contain, I would really appreciate any help in this matter. Also one of our members, Gregg Jorgenson, is a staff writer for "Behind The Lines", a magazine that is really exceptional.

To close I've listed our financial report. Until the next newsletter TAKE CARE.

Howard

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

#### INCOME

Balance August 1994	\$3383.59
Dues from Reunion	240.00
Donations	440.00

Merchandise sales	498.95
Bar Donations	134.60
Mail sales	<u>135.00</u>
Total	\$4832.14

#### EXPENSES

McIntyre Memorial	50.00
Secretary exp.	502.00
T-shirts	310.00
Mailing	182.64
Gifts for reunion	40.00
Hyatt Suite at reunion	645.95
Reunion Expense	<u>395.40</u>
Total	\$2125.89

Balance Remaining \$2706.25

#### Secretary's Report

Business year July, 1993 thru July, 1994.

#### INCOME

Funds from Treasurer \$910.35

#### EXPENSES

Amt. owed to Sec from 838.00

last year 37.18

Bad check 25.00

BALANCE 10.17

Two newsletters were mailed out this business year. 461 mailed out the first newsletter with 5 coming back with forwarding addresses and 32 with forwarding order expired or none left.

The second newsletter 463 were mailed out and 8 were returned with no forwarding and one deceased. 18 came back with forwarding addresses.

Please send your change of address to Bonnie Echterling, 626 Lincoln Street, Lowell, IN 46356 219-696-6589 this would save alot of work for me and the additional postage costs. We have located 563 and look how many do not send me change of addresses.

We have been notified of two deaths, Lyle R. Gayman and James McIntyre. James McIntyre died June 20, 1994 of a brain aneurysm.

Bonnie Echterling

#### VERY IMPORTANT NEWS

Cal Renfro has a new wife,

Jan, and she found out a settlement is being made to those affected by Agent Orange. You have to call this number 1-800-831-6515 immediately and request info be sent to you. The forms from yourself and your Dr. must be in by Dec. 31, 1994. This has been kept very quiet probably so many of you do not have a chance to get a share of this money. Please fill out the form even if you have a minor problem, because left over money in this trust will be divided between the ones they choose not to pay. I've been trying to call this number for 8 hours and it is constantly busy, so good luck.

Bonnie Echterling

#### Locating News

We have been hard at work locating. The list of names will follow and the dates served when possible. If you want an address or phone number contact Bonnie. Please remember that the money to locate comes from the dues and the raffle. This means, please pay dues and if you do not want to sell raffle tickets try at least to donate a few dollars. The expenses involved in locating are postage, supplies (paper and envelopes) and the cost of phone calls when needed. There are 3 of us on this committee and the rest of the expenses we cover. We also need you to check your old address books and orders for names and information to help us find these last remaining LRRP/RANGERS. Please look now and do not put it off. Send photocopies only and if you do not want to go thru orders just send photocopies and we'll check them. The names follow:  
Steven Fruzzetti came from CO. L  
Steven Paffel 1970-1971  
Michael Petrucha 1967-1968  
Phillip Smerz 1966-1967  
Alton Eady Oct 1966 - Oct 1967  
Michael Negron 1967  
Mark Estopare Nov. 1970- April 1971  
Virgil Hoffman 1967  
Dean (Brown) DeWinter 1967

Bill Hornbuckle Oct 1971- 1972  
Ken Gallagher 1971-1972  
Lloyd Tinker 1967  
Steve Brown 1971-1972  
Harlan Lunsford is deceased. 1967  
Oscar Martinez 1971-1972  
George Butler, JR.

#### NEWS

Mike Brennan's mother, Sally, died of a heart attack Nov. 2. We all send you our love, Mike and Donna and we're very sorry. Mike is planning to visit the Wall in D.C. on Nov. 11, 1994 with Mac and probably others. Mike also has been given the very prestigious command at Ft. Bragg. Congratulations, Mike!

Cal Renfro married Jan and they have relocated to Priest River, ID. Also with new wives are Darrell Smith, wife is Lorna, and Douglas Fletcher. Bill Hornbuckle has a new baby. Congratulations!

#### Ranger Hall of Fame

We are working with the 1st Cavalry Assoc. to try to have one or more of our people nominated for the Ranger Hall of Fame this year. Anyone interested in nominating someone for induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame should contact Michael Brennan at home at 910-497-5319. Mike will be the chairman for our Ranger Hall of Fame Nomination Committee. There is a lengthy process involved here so please contact Mike soon to get it started.

The Board and Officers wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. May all your dreams come true!

\*\*\*Important Update: Information on the class action lawsuit "Product Liability Litigation" compensation can be obtained thru 1-800-225-4712 or you can write to Agent Orange Veteran Payment Program, P.O. Box 110, Hartford, Conn. 06104. The deadline is Dec. 31, 1994 for all forms so you must act quickly.



**Bonnie Echterling**

626 Lincoln  
Lowell, IN 46356