

# THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

NUMBER 18

November, 1995

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends:

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Mine was extremely hectic, but I'm finally finding the time to relax a bit and bring you up to date on our unit news.

The reunion in Killeen went very well. We had 24 members plus spouses or family. First time participants were Oscar Martinez and his son Oscar, Jr., and Pat Avery and family. Other attendees included Stan and Danita Freeborn, John LeBrun, Doc Gilcrest, Howard Shute, Buzz Albright, Sam Dixon and family, Doug and Debbie Matze, Forrest Decker, Larry and Jeanne Curtis, Mike Brennan, Peter DiBartolo, Leo and Kerry Rabago, Denny and Lena Smith, John Hutter, Jim Kraft and his brother Robb, Chuck Donahoo, Sonny Lozano, Tom Campbell, and Augie and Rita Garcia.

We had a wonderful luncheon, which began with presentation of a memorial honoring David McWilliams and all our departed brothers. We now have a beautiful framed picture of the Viet Nam Wall, and plan to make this remembrance a part of all our luncheons. John LeBrun won a magnificent knife made by Bill Abbott. John then graciously donated the knife to our unit for a future raffle. We're grateful, John, and all of Canada is proud.

Our luncheon highlight was a talk by Lt. Victor Norris of E Company, 52 INF (ABN)(LRS). This is the Army Corps level unit that reactivated our old unit and

performs long range surveillance. Lt. Norris explained how this unit functions today and gave an outstanding and moving presentation. A number of the company members also joined us for lunch. The previous day we had visited their barracks where they put on a demonstration for us and spent a very hot afternoon showing us their equipment and answering questions.

At our breakfast, Ken Olson (A 1/9), presented us with a commemorative silver cup from the Ranger Hall of Fame. Ken contributed this cup in honor of David McWilliams and James McIntyre. Thanks, Ken!

We actually accomplished some business, also. Doug Matze was elected Sgt. at arms, and Sam Dixon Unit Memorabilia Guard. That means Sam is responsible for insuring all the pictures, cups, coffee makers, etc., make it from reunion to reunion. Tom Campbell agreed to serve as chairman of a Unit History Committee which will draw up a draft history document during the coming year. Tom would greatly appreciate some help with this and is looking for members for his committee. Finally, a word on locating members. This is one of the most expensive things we do, and often members move with no forwarding address, resulting in 2nd or 3rd efforts to locate. The members voted to continue locating efforts for new people, but to find you "one time." If you move, please contact Bonnie with your new address.

The reunion ended on a

positive note when the Park Inn informed us they would donate the hospitality room charges. This saved us \$400-\$500, and was a pretty nice thing for the hotel to do.

There have been some disturbing developments over the last year or so regarding some of our member's health. Bonnie will include some information on this in her remarks, and I urge all of you to consider medical check-ups on a regular basis. Most of us are of an age we should be doing this anyway, but please think on Bonnie's news.

Stan Freeborn has already started on preparations for next year's reunion in Milwaukee, and Howard reports our finances are in excellent shape. Thanks, Howard.

God Bless,  
Bob  
612-933-2953

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

The merchandise listed is for sale to members only. This rule was established at one of our reunions several years back. Our logo is copyrighted and for our use only. So when you wear a unit item it's very special.

When making payment to the unit please make all checks to LRRP/Rangers. For shipping, I send everything by U.S. Express Mail which is \$3.00 for 2 lbs. or less. This makes sure your items get to you as soon as possible and its reasonable.

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

#### Merchandise available:

T-shirts - Black or White (silk screen) size M, L, XL, XXL - \$10.00. XXXL - \$12.00.

T-shirts - Black only (Decal) size M, L XL - \$11.00. XXL \$13.00.

Black sweatshirts (Decal) large

and X-large \$18.00, XXL - \$19.00.  
Hats white or black \$10.00.

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

Unit logo watches - \$35.00

Unit patches - (cloth) - \$4.25.

Unit logo bumper stickers - \$1.75.

Unit logo decals (window) - \$1.75.

Unit Rings silver \$35.00 (one size 10)

Range crest patch cloth - \$4.00.

Note: I am still trying to locate a reasonable source for the metal unit crest pins.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

This is the final break down of our financial status after the reunion of 1995.

\$2544.19 previous balance

\$1601.50 dues, merchandise and donations

\$ 241.97 Bar donations

\$4387.66 Total

\$ 245.50 dues, merchandise by mail Aug.

\$4633.16 Total

-\$524.25 expenses reunion

\$4108.91

#### Expenses: Breakdown

\$ 244.20 Receipts, food, items for lunch etc.

\$ 263.05 Beer

\$ 217.00 guest tickets, picture, mail, tip

\$ 724.25 Total

\$ 200.00 money sent ahead

\$ 524.25 Total

Special thanks to Tom Campbell and John LeBrun for \$200.00 donation each.

Our current balance is \$4108.91, this is the best balance we have ever had since starting our reunions. I must however order new T-shirts, hats, watches and logo pins. Debbie Matze has offered to locate a source for hats and t-shirts. She is in the process of setting up an account with a supplier. We still have 50 belt buckles, 3 rings, ample decals and 2 watches. Also 1 sweat shirt left. This translates into about \$1375.00 of merchandise. If anyone has any specific questions please get in touch with me.

Sua Sponte,  
Howard Shute

Secretary's Report  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR July, 1995 THUR October, 1995.

Income from

Treasurer                \$596.09

Expenses

Misc	53.74
Phone bill	30.40
Photocopies	20.76
Supplies	26.39
Postage	210.06
Total expenses	341.35

Balance                \$ 254.74

Bonnie Echterling  
219-696-6589

FROM BONNIE

I have very important news to share with all of you. I find this news shocking and confusing as I know you will also.

You have been informed that David McWilliams died from complications from surgery for kidney cancer in the spring of 1995. Just before this tragic event, Joe (Orech) Kirby, who served with Mac called my husband, Mike, to tell him he just had kidney cancer surgery. The Doctor's removed all of Joe's cancer (one Kidney) and after chemo he is well and back to work. Joe told Mike about his symptom, blood in trace amounts found by a urine test by his Doctor. This means that you could not see the blood in the urine.

The 1st week of August, Mike, saw blood in his urine only twice. Please remember that Mike, Mac and Joe all served together. We immediately took Mike to our Doctor and after explaining about Mac and Joe our Doctor proceeded as Mike also had cancer. He was sent for many tests and sent to a specialist within days. The only abnormal test was a urine test for cancer cells that showed abnormal cells (not cancer cells). And no traces of blood were found in his urine by the Doctors, but on September 19, 1995 Mike went to outpatient surgery for a cystoscopy. The Doctor found a large cancer tumor in the bladder and removed it. Mike's kidney's were free of cancer.

Normally Mike seeing blood in his urine twice would have been ignored, but thanks to Joe and Mac the cancer was caught before it was invasive. Now Mike will receive a new treatment called TICE BCG Vaccine in his bladder for once a week for 6 weeks then once a month for a year and

he must have a cystoscopy every 3 months for a year to make sure the cancer does not reoccur.

We have been in contact with others of you now and it seems more of you are sick, but no diagnosis have been made yet on them. But the problems seem to involve the liver and urinary system.

Two of you with cancer in the urinary system would maybe be a coincidence, but 3 with cancer and more not well means something is very wrong.

Next you need to know that Dale Markovich tells us he had Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma 2 years ago and is now clear of it after chemo. Bill Hand tells us Donald VanHook died last year from non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Both Don and Dale served at the same time. And non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is definitely from Agent Orange.

What is very clear is that all of you need to go to your Doctor immediately for check ups. Tell the Doctor what is going on so you can be checked very carefully. And you all need to go frequently back, because these cancers are very fast and give little if any warning that they are in your body. We realize this is very scary, but caught in time the medical people can do wonders. Please do not ignore our warning and if you have signs already please get to your Doctor now.

Mike and I have discussed all of these facts with other board members. What we want to do now is ask all of you to let me know if you are sick or have any problem you attribute to Agent Orange or the experimental malaria drugs. We will put all in the next newsletter so we can get a better idea of how many of you are affected, but please remember this is probably only the start of problems that may be expected.

Dale Markovich sent us alot of material on Agent Orange. Please contact Bob Gill, Howard Shute or Mike Brennan for copies. Mike and I also have a copy, but we are going to be very busy for awhile with his treatments.

I will now list the conditions recognized as service-connected for Vietnam Veterans based on Exposure to Agent Orange or other Herbicides that contained Dioxin from "AGENT ORANGE REVIEW" Chloracne, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, Porphyria cutanea tarda, Multiple myeloma, and Respiratory cancers.

There is also a committee from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences that is following up on other conditions that may be caused from the dioxin and this includes many more cancers, metabolic disorders

including diabetes (which I know 3 who developed this after coming home from Nam), Autoimmune and other immunological disorders, neurologic and neurobehavioral disorders, disorders of the digestive system and hepatotoxic effects, reproductive disorders, chloracne and other skin disorders, circulatory disorders, respiratory disorders and other health conditions.

If you need info our want to talk please feel free to call. No one is alone in this. Plan on the next newsletter around February or March. And if you know the whereabouts of any who have moved or we have not located please warn them also.

Your Secretary,  
Bonnie Echterling

#### NEWS

Mike Davidson has sent a training tape from Vietnam from this unit. He is in it as is Leonard Declue and George Duet and Bill Hornbuckle. If interested in a copy please contact Sam Dixon, 4 Warwick Lane, New Castle, DE 19720, 410-328-0892.

#### Locating News

No one was located this quarter due to Mike's surgery. We do ask you all to write letters to your newspapers stating our search for the remaining individuals and you can give my name and address if you wish. The need to find everyone is growing more important each day. Remember this is a small world.

#### DON'T CALL US

Factoid of the week: from our local newspaper, There are 99 million households in the United States and about 35 million of them aren't listed in the phone books. Says Demographics magazine: "About 15 million are recent movers. Six million are unlisted because they don't have phones. The others are avoiding criminals, ex-spouses, the police, marketers, or fate."



**Bonnie Echterling**

626 Lincoln  
Lowell, IN 46356