

THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

Number 20

July 1996

Presidents Report

Greetings to All:

I hope the newsletter finds everyone well and making plans to attend our reunion in Milwaukee in late July. We have been able to arrange a guest speaker for our luncheon. Major General (ret.) Morris Brady commanded 2/20 ARA (Blue Max) when the Division went to Viet Nam, and I'm excited about having him as our guest.

This is the year for elections to our board. The nominating committee has forwarded the following names for consideration:

President:	Robert Gill
Vice President:	Stan Freeborn
Treasurer:	Doug Matze
Secretary:	Bonnie Echterling
Sgt.-At-Arms:	John LeBrun
Board of Trustees:	Larry Curtis
	Forrest Decker

A ballot is included in this newsletter. Members may vote by mail or in person, provided they are current in their dues. Nominations for office remain open up to elections at our business meeting in Milwaukee. Members unable to attend can still nominate candidates by notifying Bonnie or me prior to the reunion. Those having an interest are strongly urged to let us know.

Since our last newsletter, two of our members, Joseph Kukea and Steve Brown, have passed away. Although I did not know Steve personally, I did have the honor of serving under CPT Kukea both in the states and upon my arrival in the LRRPs. On behalf of all LRRP/Ranger members, I extend our condolences to the families of Steve and Joe.

I did receive an invitation to attend a change of command ceremony for our Co E, 52nd Inf,

LRSD at Ft. Hood. Although I was unable to attend, I understand George Paccarelli was the keynote speaker. I look forward to hearing George's account at the reunion. (Note: See also the Secretary's report. B.E.)

Finally, a number of our members are reporting health problems to Bonnie. Right now Bonnie and Mike expect to be in Milwaukee, and she has a lot of information to share.

This is all for now. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee.

Bob

PS. I have heard the hotel is telling folks they are "full-up", but if you call directly (414-271-7250), and tell them you are part of the 1st Cav reunion, there may be "a room in the inn."

FINANCIAL REPORT

\$2,738.32 balance 1/1/96
538.38 income

\$3,276.70
- 1,373.40 expenses

\$1,903.30 balance

Income:

\$ 193.25 Feb dues/merchandise
76.32 Mar dues/merchandise
32.56 Apr dues/merchandise
196.25 May dues/merchandise
40.00 June dues/merchandise

\$ 538.38 Total income

Expenses: Breakdown

\$350.00 Feb Newsletter
4.00 Bank Charge
64.00 Mar stamps/shipping
4.00 Mar Bank Charge
4.00 Apr Bank Charge T-shirts

100.00 May Pins
 4.00 May Bank Charge
 489.40 June Hats
 350.00 June Newsletter
4.00 June Bank

Supplies 29.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,052.80
 OVERALL TOTAL \$243.29

\$1,373.40 Total Expenses

Merchandise available:

T-shirts - Black or White (silk screen): size M, L, XL: \$10.00. XXL: \$11.00. XXXL: \$12.00.
 T-shirts - Black only (Decal) size M, L, XL - \$11.00. XXL: \$13.00
 Black sweatshirt (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)
 Ranger Crest Patch (cloth) - \$4.00.

Contact: Howard Shute
 111 East Miller Avenue
 Munhall, PA 15120
 412-461-9120

Secretary's Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR July, 1995 THRU
 1 July, 1996.

TOTAL INCOME \$1,296.09

EXPENSES

1st Cav. flowers 59.85
 Misc. 142.04
 Printing 261.99
 Phone Bill 51.19
 Photocopies 29.76
 Postage 478.97

Secretary's Report

I received a letter from George Pacerelli. Some excerpts: "[Last May] I received a call from CPT Dave Andres, the commander of Company E (LRS), 52nd Inf., at Ft. Hood. He informed me that on 21 May, they were uncasing the 52nd Infantry Regimental Colors, & requested to know if I would be available to do the honors...The ceremony was great. The new company commander, CPT Doug Ollivant, is a very fine officer & man." George also says they surprised him a bit...he was named Honorary Colonel of the 52nd Infantry Regiment.

Further news: James (Bob) Storey located us. He served with you early 1968 LRRPs.

We received a possible address on John McSwain from someone we say "thank you" to. I'll contact this J.S. and see if he is ours.

I want to ask all of you again to please let us know your new address when you move or something has been changed by the Post Office. We have located 573 of you and we now have current addresses on about 423. Some of these have died, but not that many. If you know the address of someone who has moved, please send it to me.

If you contacted me and I haven't changed your address on the newsletter label, please let me know again.

Mike and I recently read a book that we strongly encourage all of you to read. It's about New York Vietnam vets and their suffering from Agent Orange. A Dr. Ronald A. Codario from Philadelphia has been researching how to help you on his own and has maybe found a drug to break the cycle of the Agent Orange and to eliminate it from your body. There are some of you who have gone to doctors and found out you are okay. Maybe this could help you stay that way. I also encourage those of you who still have not gone to your doctors to please do so. Even if you think I'm wrong about the Agent Orange, it's good to make sure you are healthy in all other respects as well.

I will write to this doctor soon to see what

he suggests. If you contact me, I'll let you know what I find out, or I'll put it in the newsletter. The book is "Waiting For an Army to Die: The Tragedy of Agent Orange" by Fred A. Wilcox. Call Seven Locks Press at 1-800-354-5348 to order it, if you're interested and can't find it elsewhere. It's \$10.95 plus shipping.

A follow-up on those in our unit who are ill or with cancer:

One man is bleeding from the colon (possible parasites from VN), one is bleeding from the urinary tract, and one is bleeding from the bladder.

James Storey ('67-'68) reports he was diagnosed in 1993 with bladder cancer. He was operated on in 1994.

Chuck Coffin ('69-'70) as a result of this column, had a complete physical exam, and was found to be totally healthy.

Spanky Seymour went in for check-up and is fine except for skin cancer.

Kala Kukea died Feb 8, 1996 of heart attack.

Ken Gallagher (1972--correct me if I'm wrong on the date, Ken) was diagnosed 9 years ago with a melanoma, but has overcome it.

Steve Brown ('71-'72) was diagnosed in Feb. with advanced liver cancer. He died May 4, 1996 at 45 years of age. The last time I talked to him, he wanted me to tell you all to get CAT scans and make sure you are free of cancer. He left a 13 yr. old daughter who needs educational help. I have sent \$50 to help with Steve's tombstone or other memorial at the gravesite. Please think about maybe a fund raiser for Steve's daughter. Steve's son, who is on Active Duty now, recently had a baby. Steve held on long enough to see the baby.

Mike Echterling ('68-'69) My husband will undergo a prostate biopsy July 8. The doctor feels Mike has more cancer and will know the results a week after the biopsy.

If any others of you have been sick, or have cancer, please let me know. Also, please let me know if the doctor tells you you are okay.

Last, but not least, membership dues should be paid now. As you know, it's \$15 per year, and please vote. You must be current to vote. Mike and I plan to be at the reunion, although we may only be there briefly, probably Saturday. We hope to see you there.

Bonnie 219-696-6589

In Memoriam

Kala (Joseph) Kukea, June 3, 1943 - Feb 8,

1996. Kala was a West Point graduate, and Commanding Officer in 1968 until September. After leaving the service, he became a firefighter in Hawaii, where he served for 24 1/2 years. His avocation was kayak canoeing, and he served as a coach, teacher, and mentor to thousands of young athletes. He died of a heart attack, doing what he loved best--kayaking the Hawaiian waters. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and his son, Nalu.

Stephen N. Brown, May 11, 1950 - May 4, 1996. Brown served from Feb. of '71 to July of '72. After he came back from Vietnam, he worked for the railroad. His mother sent a note of thanks for the donation from the LRRP Ranger Association. She intends to use the funds to plant small flowering shrubs or a dwarf evergreen wherever the headstone is set.

LRRP/RANGER BALLOT

Please mail in ballots to Bonnie Echterling a good week before the Reunion July 31 - August 4, 1996, or vote at the reunion. You must be current with your membership dues. You can mail the money with this ballot, if necessary.

These are the candidates running for office.

PRESIDENT

_____ ROBERT GILL

VICE PRESIDENT

_____ STANLEY FREEBORN

TREASURER

_____ DOUGLAS MATZE

SECRETARY

_____ BONNIE ECHTERLING

SERGEANT AT ARMS

_____ JOHN LeBRUN

BOARD MEMBERS

Past Presidents serve on the Board automatically. They are Michael Brennan and

626 Lincoln
Lowell, IN 46356