

THE LRRP/RANGERS



OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

NUMBER 21

FEBRUARY 1997

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Friends,

Best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

It has been an eventful time since our last newsletter up to the holidays, beginning with a very successful reunion through what seemed to be an interminably long political year. I wish I felt more upbeat regarding the election outcomes; it seems veterans just continue to be a smaller and smaller group among our elected officials.

Anyway, I am aware not all members receive the "Saber" newsletter, so I begin with a brief update of our reunion. 37 members and family attended the reunion in Milwaukee including first-timers Bennie Gentry, John Trumbull, Ron Bitticks and Frank Sturino. We continue to show our increasing age, with the pop and coffee expenses once again exceeding the beer costs. I doubt anyone would have predicted this 25 years ago.

There were some new officers elected at the reunion. They are listed as follows: Bob Gill, President; Stan Freeborn, Vice President; Doug Matze, Treasurer; Bonnie Echterling, Secretary; John

LeBrun, Sergeant-At-Arms; and Forrest Decker, Larry Curtis, Mike

Brennan and Mike Echterling as Board of Trustees. Again, our warmest thanks to Howard Shute and Al Voelkel for their past years of outstanding service. We also voted for about the fifth consecutive year to fill out biographies regarding our time in Vietnam and events since. Larry (Doc) Gilchrest has submitted our first one (enclosed in this newsletter) congratulations Doc. I hope others will consider your lead and send them to myself or Bonnie.

All in all, it was great to see old friends, and I think everyone had a relaxed time. Although he wasn't at Milwaukee, we've gotten word that Bruce Judkins was recently married. It seems in order to know Bruce better, his new wife, Jennie, even tried sky-diving. She could have saved time and money, not to mention danger, by merely calling any of us for the full scoop on Bruce. On second thought though, she probably should have done her homework before getting married.

Stan Freeborn, Mike Brennan, Dave Klimek, and Sam and Cathy Dixon got together in Washington, D.C. for the

Veteran's Day celebration. Stan had driven to Red Lion where he had a chance to visit with Patti McWilliams and then drove down to Washington with Dave. I have to point out this-not only was Stan unable to find Patti's house in spite of prior visits (with me driving), but on the way from Iowa had decided to visit Howard Shute. Unfortunately, Stan was unable to find Pittsburgh. They all did have a great time when they were finally able to find one another. The report I received, however, did indicate that Sam seemed somewhat agitated and apprehensive, and would neither confirm nor deny any knowledge of the Aberdeen sex scandals.

A number of our members continue to report to Bonnie new or on-going medical problems. Again a reminder that we are all of the age where regular medical exams are important. If you (like me), avoid this stuff like the plague, please re-consider and get a check-up.

Finally, during this holiday time, join me in remembering our departed brothers from Vietnam and afterward with a prayer and a kind thought.

Happy New Year!!
Bob

LRRP/RANGER
FINANCIAL REPORT
1-1-96 THRU 10-31-96

BEGINNING BALANCE \$2738.32

REVENUES:
INTEREST .56
DUES, MERCHANDISE,

DONATIONS \$3851.75
TOTAL REVENUES +3852.31

EXPENSES:
REUNION \$2437.96
INVENTORY PURCHASES \$ 706.44
SHIPPING \$ 64.00
SECRETARY
 (NEWSLETTER, ETC) \$ 700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES -3908.40

ENDING BALANCE \$2682.23

SUBMITTED BY: DOUG MATZE, JR.
TREASURER

LRRP/RANGER
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

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) L &
XL: \$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.
Ranger training video: \$10.00.
Annual Dues: \$15.00.
Shipping (additional): \$3.00.

Please mail check or money to:
Doug Matze, Jr., 3210
Clintwood Rd., Midlothian, VA
23112
Made out to LRRP/Rangers.
(Editor's note: For a recent
Roster contact Bonnie
Echterling and send \$5.00 made
out to the LRRP/Rangers.)

1ST CAV NEWS AND REUNION INFO

The 50th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Assn. Reunion will be in Killeen, Texas on August 6-10, 1997. For more details contact Stan Freeborn at 515-476-3244.

The 1st Cav Assoc. is offering a 1996 Membership Directory for \$15.00. It covers 23,308 members and their current addresses. If you served with other units this is the directory for you.

The Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop offers many items for sale including history books and books from 1st Cav. authors. Call 817-532-2075 for information. You can see their web page at <http://www.vvm.com/'firstcav>. History on the 1st Cav., 7th, 8th, 2/20th ARA and other items of interest have links from the web page.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have a great deal of information to cover this newsletter. Even though I'm late I've been hard at work on LRRP/Ranger material. First off, Mike had his last year surgery a week ago. The Doctor felt he had more cancer, but today we were told it was not cancer. He will now have the Cysto's every 6 months for a year. His cancer treatments will continue every 3 months.

I report now that we have a prostate cancer, a Ranger who is very ill, two more bleeding from the urine, a Ranger has had a heart attack, one of our LRRP's has had some strokes this past year and one of our Rangers has had a small stroke. I've not listed names this time since I did not get

permission to do so. Ron Holte called me to say there has been a misunderstanding. He is not in a wheelchair and his back problems are not from spinal cancer. Sorry, Ron. He is a proud Grandfather and a devoted one. He helps out by baby sitting alot. He is going to the VA for various health problems.

Dale Markovich has written to say he is in remission and doing well except for old age. He also wanted to make sure you all were aware the government now accepts spinal bifida (a birth defect), prostate cancer, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy as caused from agent orange. Contact 1-800-827-1000 for additional information. (Please let me know if any of you get compensated due to agent orange. Bonnie)

Tom Titus wrote to ask for a current newsletter as many of you have, but I am late due to many unavoidable factors. Tom also is now President of the 1st Cav. First Team Idaho Chapter, covering Idaho, western Oregon, and northern Nevada. He also is taking a trip per Harley with a group to Washington, D.C. to The Wall on Memorial Day 1997.

Doug Parkinson is waging a campaign to get fellow LRP's (67-68) to attend the Texas reunion and get to see each other again. Think seriously about it guys. Health and age take its tolls quickly.

Alma Kennedy wrote to let us know Larry McEwen has been hard at work to help Vietnam Vets and has opened a Veterans club called Modern Day Veterans in Park Hills, MO. Phone is 573-431-7606. If any

of you travel that way make sure you stop.

Paul O'Brien keeps in close contact and he is looking for a Ranger beret from the Ranger Dept. If anyone can help him out please let him know. Paul also bought a Saber for the next raffle. It has tremendous history. Thank you Paul. I mentioned I needed the book of names from The Wall and Paul gave me his. He even UPS'd it on Saturday night to be delivered on Sunday from California to Lowell, IN. Thank you again Paul, I am able to finally work on the KIA's list for our unit.

Johnny Suggs has been very busy and doing better. The Doctor is watching his lung damage closely. Apparently this is from agent orange. He really wants to get to a reunion soon. If you get a chance please get me Manny Perez and Pekunis's address.

Bennie Gentry and I had a long talk. He sent many letters out to team members and is anxious to hear from you all. He wants to find Richard Mulligan, Webb from Texas and Sgt. Kelley. Is there anyone who can help him? Call me for his phone number.

Rex and Julie called to say they are well. Rex has to travel long distances to work since the railroad relocated. This will continue until Seth graduates.

Bob Gill is extremely busy. He is considering a vacation. Sounds like he really needs it.

Floyd Kirkendoll called and gave me information off of his orders. He came up with SSN's we needed and a new name, Gary C. Frierson possibly from Texas. Floyd

has lost alot of his family very recently. Sorry to hear this Floyd.

Mike Brennan has been transferred to Washington again. He sounds as busy as always. He wants to find Fumio Ikeda and I found an unlisted phone number in Pacifica, CA. Can anyone help us with this problem? Mike has been helping our LRRP/Rangers counseling us when our health problems get bad. He always takes time from his family and his busy work to help us. Please thank him when you can.

One of our Rangers has a very ill child. Please everyone pray for them.

Bruce Judkins and new wife are well thankfully. They are now carless due to an accident in Georgia. Bruce loves his sky diving.

Chuck Coffin has been very busy in and out of the country. It seems he may be retiring very soon. Mike and I hope he and the family will be able to stay in Lowell. Linda was able to join him in Germany for two weeks and they tell me they had a wonderful time.

Charlie Burckhardt is still working hard with the Philadelphia Police and teaching college. His daughter recently married and the wedding was just beautiful from all accounts. Congratulations!

Anyone still in contact with the Dickinson family? The sister moved and I do not have a current address. Please call me, I have something to discuss having to do with the family.

IF I HAVE NEGLECTED TO MENTION ANYONE PLEASE DON'T GET UPSET. I am trying to cope with all of Mike's

treatments and surgery and then I've lost two family members recently.

LOCATING NEWS

Thank you for the program Phonedisc Powerfinder Pro guys. I've sent many letters out trying to locate. Gary Mascitella responded and he is living in Long Valley, NJ. Also found Kent Imhoff, but he does not want on the roster. He says he served very little time with the unit. He's a pilot in California. Robert Jella's son has contacted us again. He now is also a pilot for Federal Express. Congratulations! His Grandfather from TN was recently awarded the Silver Star for his Glider services in World War II.

Sadly, I must tell you Lee Hennings died in 1992. From the way many of you talk about Lee I think he was a very special Ranger. The details about his death are not real clear, but it sounds like maybe cancer.

I must also tell you I found the family of Frank Kulbatski. He went back to Nam for a second tour and was in a helicopter crash of which he survived, but he went back in for others and was killed. His name is on the wall. I believe Frank served with us in 1967.

Bennie Gentry located us at the 1996 reunion.

Has anyone heard of Ike Isaacs, who says he served in the unit in 1971-1972. I don't have anything on him from old records and so far he has not sent me anything to prove he was with us.

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE 7/31/96	-1.95
INCOME	\$112.04
EXPENSES	
MISC	\$169.74
PHONE BILL	4.50
PHOTOCOPIES	.20
POSTAGE	\$ 5.64
SUPPLIES	\$ 22.98

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$203.06

BALANCE 12/12/96	- 92.97

BIO FROM DOC GILCHREST

NAME: JOSEPH LARRY GILCHREST
DATES WITH LRRP/RANGERS: 4/67-4/68

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS WITH THE UNIT: Recondo School 1st team - Commo duty - Phan Thiet advance team, 1st mission sneaked into VC camp (a big one) and was surrounded by over 200 VC. Pulled mission out of Phan Rang for some people out of Nha Trang. Working with Special Forces Captain in Phan Thiet - Mr. Roberts (CIA) - Crazy missions and fire power while with Markovich's team. The Death of David Thomas Dickinson 12/6/67. Tet and the move up north to Evans. Death of friends and the wounding of many. THE GOOD TIMES ARE THE BEST MEMORIES.

FAMILY: Wife - Louise.
Daughters - Amy & Matt Carter (Marine), Jennifer & Brian Edwards and Jessica. Sons - Larry Joe and Joey.
Granddaughters - Emmie and Katy. Grandson - Kyle.
Mother - Lillian Gilchrest.
HOBBIES: Photography and collecting cameras.
OCCUPATION: VA Hospital Mailclerk and part time photographer (yes, I have and do sell a picture).
MEMORABLE LIFE EVENTS SINCE

VN: Living with Markovich. The births of my children. All my struggles with health and other problems that I have overcome. The 1st and 2nd Reunion. Being hired by the VA to work with PTSD Vets. My Grandchildren. My daughters weddings. My Brother overcoming problems. My Brother's children. Selling my first picture to Reisal, TX, because they saw them and wanted them. The City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and the National Bank all bought over 70 copies. The weddings I shoot by reputation not advertising. Most of all my first sales of a picture I took that actually makes people stop and look and some even cried. It's very popular, but I haven't decided what to do with it yet. It's a one of a kind negative.

Note from Bonnie: I hope I read your writing correctly, Doc. I am sorry if I didn't.

THE LRRP/RANGER KIA REPORT

I decided it was time to complete our KIA list and learn if others were killed on 2nd or 3rd tours. From the information you have given me I found 35 men killed in action from our unit. I am sending this list to you all to check if I have the correct person and if anyone has been missed. Please let me know and especially check Major Tucker. I broke down the list by years as follows:

1967	5 KIA's
1968	8 KIA's
1969	14 KIA's
1970	4 KIA's
1971	1 KIA
1972	3 KIA's

After you have gone over this list, please consider. Do you want to know where they are buried? Charlie Burckhardt

wants to know if you want bronze plaques on their graves? How do you want the list organized? Do you want history with each person since when you guys are gone there will not be anyone left to know? Please let Bob Gill (612-933-2953) or myself know.

I will list those I found killed on other tours in Nam:

CREEKMORE, JESSE CARL SSGT. ARMY. BORN DEC. 31, 1945
DIED FEB. 3, 1970.
ALAMO, TEXAS
PANEL 14W LINE 97
DARTT, PAUL RICHARD SP4 ARMY BORN MARCH 20, 1946
DIED OCT 24, 1968
BRATTLEBORO, VT
PANEL 40W LINE 27
HOLSTON, ARVELL BERNARD SGT. ARMY BORN JAN. 23, 1949
DIED MARCH 20, 1970
INKSTER, MI
PANEL 12W LINE 25
KULBATSKI, FRANCIS KENNETH CPL ARMY BORN MARCH 20, 1948
DIED FEB. 15, 1969
JERSEY CITY, NJ
PANEL 32W LINE 38
MCGHEE, DENNIS OLIVER SP4 ARMY
BORN MAY 13, 1949
DIED SEPT. 28, 1969
GRATIS, OH
PANEL 17W LINE 17
SPRINKLE, THOMAS THOMAS SP4 ARMY BORN SEPT. 25, 1946
DIED JULY 7, 1968
MECHANICSBURG, PA
PANEL 53W LINE 40
TROTTER, DOUGLAS EARL SGT ARMY
BORN JUNE 29, 1950
DIED DEC. 31, 1971
YAKIMA, WA
PANEL 2W LINE 94
I need you all to check the next list and please give me some answers.

- 1) Westphall, Paul was reported as a Capt. KIA on a mission by a land mine 66 - 67. His name is not in the book.
- 2) Buckner (I found two listed) said to have gone thru the school and not sure if he served with the unit. I found a Anthony and a Robert.
- 3) Franco, Thomas not listed as KIA.
- 4) Jones, Leonard not listed as KIA.
- 5) There is a Lipsey listed as KIA. Is he ours?

LIPSEY, THOMAS WASHINGTON III
SP4 ARMY
BORN MAY 24, 1951
DIED FEB. 6, 1972
KALAMAZOO, MI
PANEL 2W LINE 104

Your Secretary,
Bonnie Echterling, 626 Lincoln
Lowell, IN 46356 219-696-6589