

THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

NUMBER 22

May 1997

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

I trust this newsletter finds everyone doing well and enjoying spring. As I write this, we are experiencing continued abnormal temps, and some very severe flooding in Minnesota, but eventually things will warm up here.

I have a lot of reunion details. As you may know, this year's reunion is the 50th First Cavalry Div. Assoc. reunion in Killeen, Texas. August 6-10, 1997. Because it's the 50th or just perhaps more Vietnam veterans are attending, rooms are at a premium. Our Chapter will again be located at the Park Inn. This will be the location of our hospitality room and the location of many of our members. Reservations should be made using the Saber reservation form or by calling 1-800-633-8757. If you call, this number connects you to the Plaza Hotel and you then ask for Cathy in sales and catering. She does reservations for all the hotels and has been extremely helpful to us. Be sure to notify her that you are with the LRRP/Rangers. Please remember, the Association itself does not reserve rooms. They did block out a number of rooms at all hotels, as did our Chapter, but these are on a first serve basis and therefore, you need to act.

Every year there seems to be a bit of confusion regarding the reunion reservations and hotel accommodations. The reunion reservation form, including the \$5 reservation fee, events and reservations for our unit luncheon and breakfast, are also in the Saber. While tickets are available at the reunion, sending in at least a registration fee helps our Association plan an eventful reunion. The hotels you do on your own. This is an appropriate time to remind our chapter members that we are a Chapter of the Division Association and as such, are expected to be members of the Division Association. Some of you were joined as life members while in Vietnam and may not be aware of it. In any event, Life membership is \$10.00 and the requested Saber Subscription price is \$10.00 a year. For those not members, I strongly encourage you to become one. Please contact any of the staff for info or a simple registration form at: 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1799.

The Division Association does a number of good things, including giving tremendous help and support to Chapters like ours, providing scholarships, and the forum (reunion) for us to get together. Additionally, they publish a newspaper six times a year

which includes our Chapter news. It's the best way we have to stay informed and in touch. While I'm on the subject (or soapbox) the recent Saber articles written by our Vice President have been outstanding. My kudos to you, Stan. You have a real writing talent. To our members, remember Stan is not writing fiction. He can only share news and happenings in our lives if you share with him.

So, to sum up, it's cold here. I really want to see you all at the reunion--get reservations now! You can always cancel. Join the Cavalry Association if you haven't. Also, join with me at Killeen in voting Stan lifetime article writer!

I'm still working on our event with the LRRP at Killeen. It has always been enjoyable mixing with the young soldiers and I'm sure we will get something worked out for one of the days. Also, no one who was at the reunion four years ago can forget the memorable evening of dancing and entertainment provided by Ron Hall. You should be forewarned Ron, they didn't forget your promise to hold a barbecue blast at the next reunion. This time, they are coming with the sauce.

Enclosed is a biography from Robert Ramos. Bob attended his first reunion a couple of years ago in Florida, where he gained some notoriety on Ricky's Rocket. Thank you, Bob, for sharing this with us.

Best Wishes,
Bob

Biography of Bob Gill

Age: 50

Viet Nam Service: 1968 - 1969

Married: Wife is Pat. Two children: Charles age 22 and currently in the United States Marine Corps (go figure), and Elizabeth, a sophomore at University of MN.

Job: Fire Chief in Minnesota (it was not a childhood dream: I applied in 1973 when I needed a job).

Greatest accomplishment since Viet Nam: I'm most proud of finally graduation from a college in 1989. It took 25 years, but contrary to the quick-paced Bob you know, I'm a slow learner.

Greatest Challenge: Raising two kids, especially through teen years. Unfortunately, this project is not yet complete.

What I take from Viet Nam experience: Whenever things are going wrong or very difficult for me, I do think back and remind myself that I survived worst problems and challenges.

Greatest pleasures: Besides Sex, the friendships I've renewed and made since attending my first LRRP/Ranger reunion... They are very special to me. Bob Gill.

Biography of Robert J. Ramos

Born: June 28, 1948, NY, NY.

1952: Upon death of mother, was placed in St. Joseph's Home in Peekskill, New York.

1957: Was relocated to Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, Mount Loretto, Home for Children.

1967: Graduated High School, St. Joseph's School for Boy's. Entered U. S. Army. Basic training, Fort Gordon, GA. Jungle training, Fort Polk, LA, N.C.O. School, Basic Airborne, Fort Benning, GA.

1968: Stationed in Vietnam, assigned to The First Air

Cavalry Div. Volunteered and accepted into Long Range Recon Patrol. E. CO. 52nd INF.

(LRRP). November - son Robert Jr. born.

1970: May - daughter Liza Marie born. June, discharged from U.S. Army. Honorable Discharge.

1972: Father passed away. Employed as cabinet maker.

1977: Upon passing civil service exam, entered the New York Transit Authority as a token clerk. After passing promotion exam was promoted to Train Operator.

Personal: My life was fulfilling but my most cherished memories was serving with the "1ST CAV, L.R.R.P.'S".

Respectfully Yours,
Robert J. Ramos

LRRP/RANGER
FINANCIAL REPORT
1-1-96 THRU 3-31-97

BEGINNING BALANCE \$2738.32

REVENUES:

INTEREST .56

DUES, MERCHANDISE,
DONATIONS \$4469.25

TOTAL REVENUES \$4469.81

EXPENSES:

REUNION \$2437.96

INVENTORY PURCHASES \$ 706.44

SHIPPING \$ 98.80

SECRETARY

(NEWSLETTER, ETC) \$1720.00

MISC Checks \$ 29.35

TOTAL EXPENSES -4992.55

ENDING BALANCE \$2215.58

SUBMITTED BY: DOUG MATZE, JR.
TREASURER

LRRP/RANGER
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-shirts - Black or white
(silk screen): size M, L, XL:
\$11.00. XXL: \$13.00.

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

Hats - white or black: \$10.00.

Unit logo belt buckles
(brass): \$20.00.

Unit logo watches: \$35.00

Unit logo bumper stickers:
\$1.75.

Unit logo decals (window):
\$1.75.

Ranger training video: \$10.00.

Annual Dues: \$15.00.

Shipping (additional): \$3.00.

Please mail check/money order
made to LRRP/Rangers to: Doug

Matze, Jr., 3210 Clintwood
Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112

(Editor's note: For a recent
Roster contact Bonnie

Echterling and send \$5.00 made
out to the LRRP/Rangers.)

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE 7/31/96 -1.95

INCOME \$112.04

Funds 1020.00

TOTAL INCOME 1130.09

EXPENSES

MISC \$197.69

PHONE BILL 4.50

PHOTOCOPIES 30.75

POSTAGE \$273.57

SUPPLIES \$ 27.18

NEWSLETTER \$178.79

TOTAL EXPENSES \$712.48

BALANCE 5/11/97 \$ 417.61

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have some very bad news. Henry Avila on April 21, 1997 lost his wife and 1st child in giving birth. If you wish to send a note or card to Henry contact me for his

address. I did send a card from the LRRP/Rangers.

Leo Corey called and he is gathering with Dave Dickinson's family for a Memorial Service for Dave in December. Those of you interested contact Leo or Garnet (Dave's sister) and I have the phone numbers.

March 17 was Johnny Suggs' birthday. Happy birthday, Johnny!

I had a call from Merle Otto, who told me he liked hearing about you guys in the newsletter. It was good to hear from you Merle.

William (Bill) Foy called. He's been in several TV series including Magnum and Law & Order and many movies. The latest is Jungle To Jungle. He wanted to let me know about the death of his good friend Frank Kulbatski. I could not even begin to explain the incident, so please contact Bill if you want to know. Good luck with the new series, Bill!

Bill Weaver called. He had a small reunion at his home. Bob Fisher, Terry Cordle, Brant Williams, Jim Massengill, Harvey Claypoole

and Ed Bailey had 3 to 4 days to visit. All had a wonderful time.

Doug Parkinson called. He's trying to get his team members to attend this reunion and is trying to locate Dody and Griffin, Gerald, last known in Weed, CA.

I had a call from Garnet, the sister of KIA, Dave Dickinson. She was pen pals with many of you in Vietnam. She'd like to hear from you again. She saves everything. Call Leo Corey or me for her phone number.

I've heard from many of you and I'll try to put more in the next newsletter.

LOCATING NEWS

Gary Frierson has been located. He's in Houston and Bill Hand will try to see him soon. Bill gathers all near him every couple of months to visit. He stays in close contact to John Hutter. John told me he remembers a Memorial service for Thomas Sprinkle in 1968. Is it possible Thomas Sprinkle died of wounds received in this unit? I need some help here.

That's all for now.
Bonnie Echterling

Lowell, IN 46356
626 Lincoln

Bonnie Echterling



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