

THE LRRP/RANGERS



*OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR*

NUMBER 23

December 1997

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and took the opportunity on Veteran's Day to honor yourself and reflect on the sacrifice and service of all our country's veterans. There are certainly fewer veterans in America today than past years. While a country at peace is a good thing, it doesn't diminish the need to remember past calls to arms and service and devotion given on behalf of our nation.

I had a great time and fellowship Veteran's week by traveling to Iowa for a pheasant hunting expedition of former Rangers. My son and I joined Stan Freeborn, Paul O'Brien, and Tony Shutty, along with Tony's brother and son. After observing our members in the wilds of Iowa, it again causes me to question how they ever survived Vietnam. Within a few hours it became clear the only chance to actually hit a pheasant was to send Tony, Paul, and Stan into the thick stuff with the dogs as overweight beaters and leave the actual shooting to me and the younger crowd. Watching those guys shoot, it seemed you could actually hear the pheasants laughing.

I've heard recently from Gary Patterson and Lou Carista. Both are retired from the service; Gary makes his home in

Alaska, and Lou in Columbus, Georgia. It was good to hear from both of you.

I'll recap the reunion news for those who haven't yet signed up for the Sabre. Our Chapter had one of our best turnouts, including first timers: Duane Blackwelder and Jim and Sue McIntyre. While in Iowa, Tony Shutty showed me a great picture of Duane. It's true that rare people like Duane and I age more gracefully than most of you.

Other attendees included: Alan Harton; Bill Hand; John Trumbull; Dave Klimek; Howard Shute; Doug Matze with Debbie, Ben and Holly; Tony Shutty; Mike and Donna Brennan; Sam, Cathy, and Robb Dixon; Paul, Sandy, and Shawn O'Brien; Augie and Rita Garcia with a whole bunch of family; Sonny Lozano; John and Christine Hutter; Oscar Martinez with Oscar, Jr.; John LeBrun; Doc Gilcrest and family; Jon and Margie Varesko; Ron Hall; Rudy Torres; Stan Freeborn; Larry, Jeanie, Chris and Pat Curtis; Bennie and Sandy Gentry; Charlie Burckhardt; and myself.

Our guests included Ken Olson; Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Pete) Booth; Jim Pressman; and Doug and Pam Sterner. At our luncheon we also had five members of the Corps Long Range Surveillance Detachment. These members were: Captain Anthony

Judge; First Lt. Rich Mohn; SIC David Scott; SSG Kenneth Agueda; and Sgt. David Bloom. It is always a treat to have today's soldiers join us -- unfortunately, this unit (so recently formed) is now deactivated. We were able to exchange tokens of appreciation and wish them the best in their military careers.

Normally, as all attendees know, our luncheon highlight is the stirring and uplifting remarks from the President. This year, however, our keynote speaker was Rudy Torres. In all the years that I've attended the reunion, Rudy's remarks were the ones I enjoyed the most. Thank you Rudy, from all the attendees, for helping make this year's reunion such a memorable experience.

The social highlight of the reunion was a spectacular Texas Barbecue hosted by Ron Hall and friends. In spite of the things Rudy says about him, Ron came through in true Ranger style. We also got to share in the unveiling of a statute of Ron given to him that evening as a gift from his friends. The sculpture truly was life-like while capturing the essence of the man. If any members happen to have a picture please send me a copy and we'll get it included in one of the Sabre articles. I'm sure Ron would welcome the opportunity to share this highlight with all Association members. In the meantime, thanks again from all of us.

Since the reunion, I've talked with George Paccarelli and Al and Karen Voelkel, who regretfully were unable to attend, but as always extend

their best wishes to everyone. Karen and AL have had a difficult year, but Karen asked I share with you what a wonderful man and source of strength Al is. I agree.

We've had mix-ups recently regarding merchandise and rosters. Hopefully, the merchandise has been taken care of and the rosters will be. Thank you for being patient.

Finally, after the first of the year, our attention turns to the election of officers and 1998. Please consider whether you might have an interest and commitment to consider running. If you do, or just want to talk about it a bit, feel free to contact me or any Board member.

I'll close with warmest regards and best wishes for the holiday season. Please find a moment during the holidays to remember our departed brothers and offer a prayer for them and each other.

Sincerely,
Bob Gill

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Minnetonka, MN 55345
612-933-2953
E-mail<RGILL@logis.org>

LRRP/RANGER
FINANCIAL REPORT
7-1-96 THRU 7-31-97

BEGINNING BALANCE \$2163.48

REVENUES:

INTEREST

DUES, MERCHANDISE,

DONATIONS

TOTAL REVENUES +4078.75

EXPENSES:	
REUNION	\$2496.00
INVENTORY PURCHASES	\$1088.64
SHIPPING	\$ 74.58
SECRETARY	
(NEWSLETTER, ETC)	\$1020.00
MISC Checks	\$ 29.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	-4708.57

ENDING BALANCE \$1533.66

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.
Hats - white or black: \$10.00.
Unit logo belt buckles (brass): \$20.00.
Unit logo watches: \$35.00
Unit logo decals (window): \$1.75.
Ranger training video: \$10.00.
Belt Buckles: \$20.00
Lapel Pins: \$3.00
Rings: \$35.00
Cloth Scroll Patch: \$2.00
Annual Dues: \$15.00.
Shipping (additional): \$3.00.

Please mail check or money to:
Doug Matze, Jr., 9623
Springhouse Drive,
Chesterfield, VA 23832
804-744-4332.

Made out to LRRP/Rangers.

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT

From 8/1/96 Through 5/27/97	
BALANCE 7/31/96	-1.95
INCOME	\$112.04
Funds	<u>1020.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	1130.09

EXPENSES	
MISC	\$197.69
PHONE BILL	4.50
PHOTOCOPIES	30.75
POSTAGE	\$435.87

SUPPLIES	\$ 32.96
NEWSLETTER	\$328.11

TOTAL EXPENSES	1029.88

BALANCE 5/11/97	\$ 100.21

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There were two newsletters mailed out during the business year of 8/1/96 through 5/27/97. Many of you called questioning why another newsletter was not mailed out and the answer is that between Bob and I we missed getting it out. I think all of you understand how busy life is for all of us at this time in our lives. We do our best. Sorry for causing concern.

ED Beal has contacted me. He wants to know if Francis, ?, who is in the 69-70 yearbook was killed with our unit? Apparently, a Col. contacted him and believes it's possible. If you have any info on this Ranger please contact Bonnie or Bob Gill. We don't want anyone left off our list of KIA's. I have contacted John LeBrun and others and they were not able to remember him.

Ed Beal also is very active with the Ranger Assoc. This assoc. is for any Ranger. He gave them our list of KIA's and someone there has been checking it. I'm unsure who or whom is doing this, but bricks are being put down in the Ranger Walk for each of our KIA's. This is a commendable thing, but Bob and the Officers of the LRRP/Rangers knew nothing about this.

In the future, all should be aware that you notify the President, Bob Gill, before giving out any of our information this is why we elected him and as we have

stated many times a great many of our members do not like our info given out and this especially means our roster.

I've received a letter from one of you. He wanted me to tell you that in July he went to surgery and a tumor and two growths were removed. He has been told he has Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He says "Please continue to stress in your newsletters the importance of a medical check-up. I waited until I was in physical pain to learn of the tumor(s) - very stupid of me!! I have been averaging 2-3 days a week at the VA Med. Ctr. since July, no chance of long term plans for now, just day by day. I didn't heed your advice in the newsletter - but don't stop telling everyone to get a thorough medical check-up!!"

BIO FROM SAMUEL C. DIXON

Date Arrived in Vietnam: 12-31-1970

Dates with LRRP/Rangers: 1-8-71 to 9-15-71

Service with other units: HHC 1/12 assigned to 3rd Bde Tactical Operations Center S-3



Bonnie Echterling

626 Lincoln
Lowell, IN 46356

Most memorable moments with the unit: Making it through Ranger training. Having my drill instructor from Fort Polk tell me he knew I would do well when I ran into him on an F.S.B.

Address: 4 Warwick Lane, New Castle, DE 19720

Home Phone: 302-328-0892

Family: Cathy A. (wife); Robert F. (son); Elizabeth Matusiewicz (step-daughter); Meredith Matusiewicz (Step-daughter)

Hobbies/Interests: Photography, NASCAR, My family ancestry

Occupation: Supervisor of Civilian Gunners, D.O.P. US Army

Memorable life events since VN, to include LRRP/Ranger reunions: Getting AA Degree. 1st Reunion of the LRRP/Rangers. 1st visit to the "Wall".

Mike and I want to wish you all wonderful and peaceful holidays.

e-mail akira@netnitco.net