

# THE LRRP/RANGERS

## OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION

### DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

NUMBER 29

OCTOBER 1999

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings One and All!

Well, reunion 1999 is history and from my perspective, they just keep getting better and better. I believe that Art Junot and his staff at the 1st Cav. Association did another wonderful job.

It was a pleasure for me to welcome to their first reunion Alton (Buddy) & Sharon Eady, John & Joan Simones, Gary (Pat) Patterson, and Bob Carr. A couple of returnees that I had not previously met were Jim & Lois Ann Reagan and Paul Alfaro. Joining Paul was his daughter Lydia Cruce, her husband Charles, and their children Lindy & Blaze from Corpus Christi.

Other reunion attendees were: Bob Gill; Ron Hall; Bennie & Sandy Gentry; John Lebrun; Doug & Debbie Matze with Holly Pelham; Doc Gilchrist; Sam & Cathy Dixon; Dave Klimek; Howard Schute; Alan Harton; Rudy Torres; Roger & Barbara Albertson; John Barnes; John Trumbell; Gerald Farrow; Larry & Jeanie Curtis; Bill Hand; John Hutter; Doug Parkinson; Danny Svoboda; Lou Carista, his daughter Kim Mitchell with husband Mike and daughter Amanda; Leo Rabago; Oscar Martinez and his son Oscar Jr.; Pat Avery; Jim & Sue Ellen McIntyre; Henry Avilia; Sonny Lozano and sons Moses and Marcos; Dan & Bonnie Roberts; and Stan & Danita Freeborn. (I screwed this up in the Saber article and left out Dan & Bonnie. If I forgot anyone else, please let me know. I apologize for any omission.)

There was one additional new member who attended that we were indeed pleased to have with us. His name is Michael Pacheco, and he currently lives in Boyd, Texas. Michael is the son of Jamie Pacheco, who was killed in action in 1972. Lebrun, Martinez, Avila, and I were all there when his father was killed, and I think I speak for the others when I say that this is a really great young man and we are proud that he took the time to be with us.

A general rule for these reunions is that we, as an organization, do not attempt to structure them. People are free to do as much or as little as they want. One event that we did organize this year was an outing to Sandy's, a local watering hole we

discovered a couple of years ago. I would like once again to thank Ron Hall for his efforts in getting this event set up. I believe everyone got plenty to eat and drink and had an opportunity to socialize not only with our members, but with some of the local residents as well.

The highlight of the Sandy's outing was a mean game of volleyball. Bill Hand decided that us "old dudes" needed to challenge some of the local "young studs". (It was not that long ago it was the other way around, was it guys?) Well, it was not a pretty sight. The guys never would play us. I believe that after watching us warm up, they felt sorry for us. Bill contends that they were afraid that we would beat them and take their women! I do like the way Bill's mind works! There was, however, a downside to the frivolity. Howard Shute made a tremendous dive for a save, but unfortunately threw his knee out. The really bad part was that, upon being examined at the local hospital, it was determined that he had a fractured bone. Howard had surgery to repair the damage after he got home and has been convalescing. I spoke with him and he would like to thank all of you who sent cards, e-mails, and called. He is doing well and by this time should have returned to work. He also is looking forward to another great adventure next year.

The reunions are always a lot of fun and each year there are always some pleasant surprises. This year belonged to Bob Carr and John Barnes. I had met John several years ago at a reunion. I enjoyed him then and it was a real pleasure to have him back. I laughed for 5 days over the stories he told. Danita went out with the Curtises, Doug Parkinson, and Bob Carr one night, and she has not stopped laughing since. The whole gathering this year was rather unique. We had people from the beginning to the end and all years in between. Nice job, guys.

The annual reunion is also the time that we conduct the business of the organization. At the business meeting, there were several issues proposed and voted on. The first was that it was proposed that we spend up to \$500 on a new scanner for Bruce Judkins so that it would take less time for him to scan in some of your pictures for posting on the web-site. Thus far, I have not been successful talking him into purchasing this equipment.

Item number two is that we voted to purchase the last two

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memorial bricks for the Ranger Walk of Fame in honor of two people who were killed in Vietnam. There is a discrepancy between our count and the 75th Association's count. The bottom line comes down to, even if they were not part of H Company, we will still purchase the bricks, and they will be so noted as being with us. It needed doing, and I thank the membership for honoring these two men.

Another issue that needs addressing is that of officers. Next year is an election year at the reunion. I stated a year ago in Buffalo, when I took over as President, that I would be the first two-year President that we have. It is not that I do not enjoy the job and am indeed honored to do it. My purpose is only that there are a lot of people out there who could do just as well or better than some of us serving now.

The Secretary position remains open. Discussion centered on just what we felt is the proper needs for this office. The only two items that were conclusive were that whoever assumes this position must attend the reunions on a regular basis and that the duties could be fitted to the individual.

There are always circumstances and events that seem to be unfair in life and with that I am saddened to add that Doug Fletcher passed away in late August. His funeral was on the 30th in Pasadena, Maryland. Bill Anton attended the services as a representative of our organization. I encourage each of you to remember Linda Fletcher in your thoughts and prayers.

The last event that I will report on for this time is that, believe it or not, Mike Brennan is a civilian! 35 years of service to this country is enough. Congratulations on your retirement, Mike! Until next time, take care and take the time to get in touch with one another.

Stan

#### LRRP/RANGER

#### MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	\$12.00
Hats (black or white)	10.00
Decals (interior or exterior)	1.75
Watches (Man's or Woman's)	35.00
Belt Buckles	20.00
Ranger Training Video (now in stock)	10.00
Lapel Pins	3.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	24.00
Cloth Scroll Patch (CO H 75th INF)	4.00
Shipping (Additional)	3.00

Please mail check or money order to: Doug Matze, Jr., 9623 Springhouse Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832. Payable to: LRRP/Ranger

**ANNUAL DUES \$15 PAYABLE TO LRRP/RANGER**

#### LRRP/RANGER FINANCIAL REPORT 8/1/98-7/31/99

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$2432.77
INCOME FROM REUNION 1998	\$1305.00
LESS REUNION EXPENSES	(810.16)
NET FROM REUNION	494.84
INCOME:	
DUES, MERCHANDISE, DONATIONS	4881.50
EXPENSES:	
INVENTORY PURCHASES	1441.71
SHIPPING	295.97
MISCELLANEOUS REFUNDS	92.03
SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER	684.94
TOTAL EXPENSES	(2514.65)
ENDING BALANCE	\$5294.46

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MATZE, JR., TREASURER

#### WEB NEWS

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5346>

We have over 14,250 hits on the web site. The biggest news is the new page from Englishman John Jones. Mr. Jones is a collector of Vietnam War memorabilia. He contacted me through the web site and said that he had some pictures that he had purchased from a dealer of one of our men, Ron Baker. He said that he had not seen anything on the web site about Ron Baker and asked if I would be interested in seeing the pictures. When I checked the roster, I realized that we did not have a Ron Baker on our Roster. WE DO NOW! As it turned out, Mr. Jones' photos were authentic, and we have ten of the photos on our web site. Almost all of the men in the photos have been identified. Mr. Jones even went back to the dealer and got a copy of Ron Baker's Recondo certificate, which is also on the web site now. It's really interesting how we were able to identify one of our own through the web page and a helpful British ally.

There is also a new page of photos from the recent reunion in Killeen. These photos are courtesy of Jim Regan. The e-mail listings have been holding pretty constant. Currently, we have 96 names on the e-mail page. If you can't e-mail by clicking on the name because you use another e-mail account such as Hotmail, Yahoo, or Juno account, you can still get the e-mail address by simply pointing to the name. The e-mail address will appear at the bottom of your screen. Or, you could double click the name and a window should pop up with the correct e-mail address in it. Just write it down and use your regular e-mail account to send the person your message.

Bruce

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## NEWSLETTER REPORT

For the June 1999 mailing, I sent out 433 first time letters. I had 8 letters come back, of which 2 were remailed with address corrections. With 5 lost addresses and 1 letter marked deceased, it now gives us the smallest return and lost addresses in recent mailings. Please keep the Chapter informed on your address changes. At the past reunion, the general membership meeting voted and passed a resolution not to spend money on finding members after the second time

If anyone is interested in the changes on the front page, I have not had time to complete my conversion to a new program. The old system I was using to create the newsletter was a bit of a nightmare. I hope to have a cleaner looking newsletter that is easier to produce.

## **1st Cavalry Division Association 53rd Reunion 9 to 13 August 2000 Fayetteville, North Carolina**

**To be hosted by North Carolina-Tar heel Chapter  
Lodging and tour info will be forwarded when  
available.**

**Mike Brennan is offering to be our local historian.**

## SHORT NEWS

With regard to Howard Shute's leg injury, Howard has asked that a special thanks be passed to David Klimek and Debbie Matze for their Ranger All the Way above and beyond assistance.

I received a very nice letter from Garnet Jenkins, sister to David Dickinson (KIA Dec. 1967). I want to thank Garnet for her time, thoughts, and feelings expressed in her letter. She has taken the time to thank our chapter for the newsletter mailings that she has received.

If anyone has an interest in **FREE** newsletters and wants to keep up with government happenings, try the following e-mail addresses:

[www.fedweek.com](http://www.fedweek.com)  
[www.fedmanager.com](http://www.fedmanager.com)  
[www.fedtechnology.com](http://www.fedtechnology.com)  
[www.militaryreport.com](http://www.militaryreport.com)  
[www.armedforcesnews.com](http://www.armedforcesnews.com)